



UU of SCV

The Flame

www.UUofSCV.org

www.facebook.com/UUofSCV

Donations Page: www.uuofscv.org/about-us/donate
PO Box 800028, Santa Clarita, CA 91380. 661-254-7866

Santa Clarita's Unitarian Universalist Congregation

March, 2024

March's monthly theme:

The Gift of Transformation



Let mystery have its place in you; do not be always turning up your whole soil with the plowshare of self-examination, but leave a little fallow corner in your heart ready for any seed the winds may bring, and reserve a nook of shadow for the passing bird; keep a place in your heart for the unexpected guests, an altar for an unknown God.

-Henri-Frederic Ariel

This I now know for certain: I do all of growing during the times in my life when I am offering compassion to the parts of myself that have not yet grown. I never once managed to shame myself into a version of me I loved more.

-Andrea Gibson

Quotes from March Soul Matters Packet

Sunday Services

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

Do you join our services by Zoom? Maybe you live in the area and keep up with UU of SCV online through the Flame? We invite you to visit in person. **Come join us!**

Experience a Sunday service with Rev. Rebecca Bijur, our Consulting Minister, Rev. Jo Green, the Affiliated Community Minister, or a notable guest speaker. **Come worship with us!**

Long time Music Director Scott Roewe with Accompanist Monica Bowser and the choir are inspirational. **Come sing with us!**

Stay for coffee, snacks and conversation afterwards. What began last summer with a cooler of cold drinks has expanded to the Hospitality space next door to the sanctuary. Stop by after service to discuss the sermon, meet new folks or renew old friendships while enjoying refreshments. **Come talk with us!**

You are welcome here.

Sundays 10:30 am (10 am when Zooming into UUFKC Sundays)

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

March 3rd, 10:30 am

Right to Be Wrong

Rev. Rebecca Benefiel Bijur,
UU of SCV Consulting Minister



(Photo credit: Pexels.com)

The new soul singer Joss Stone reminds us, I "got a right to be wrong ... my mistakes will make me strong."

But for many of us, being "wrong" in any way - from spelling mistakes and failed recipes to errors in judgment and missteps on the job - brings up powerful feelings of weakness, shame, and inadequacy.

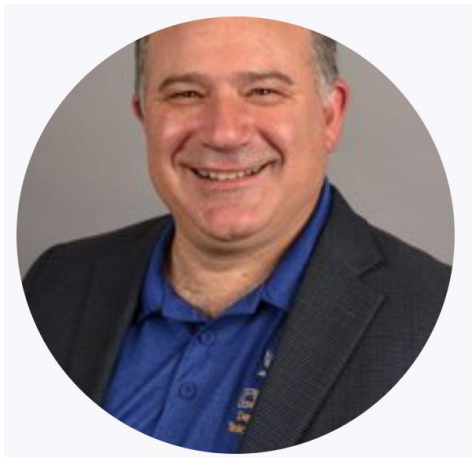
Rev. Bijur explores the transformative, spiritual side of being wrong, and what our Unitarian Universalist tradition has to teach us here. Listen to Stone at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zFFukxte0xg>



March 10th, 10:30 am

The Bilingual Renaissance is Here, All Aboard!

Dr. Adam Sawyer



Language has long served as an ambivalent proxy for national identity in the United States, a land of bountiful multilingual diversity also known unceremoniously as the “graveyard of languages.” As such, moments of linguistic flourishing in our public schools have alternated over time with those of English-Only suppression. California is currently awakening from its most recent English-only era with the State’s schools re-opening their doors to multilingual education with the passing of Proposition 58 in 2016 unleashing a “Bilingual Renaissance.”

Drawing from my nearly three decades of work as a multilingual educator, my own bilingual journey, and that as a parent of an emerging bilingual daughter, I will discuss the historical and political contours of this “Bilingual Renaissance” and its linkages to our Unitarian Universalist values of personal transformation and social justice advocacy.

Adam Sawyer is Associate Professor of Teacher Education at CSU Bakersfield where he leads the University’s Bilingual Authorization Program. Prior to his work in higher education, Adam served as a Spanish Bilingual elementary school teacher in East Palo Alto, San

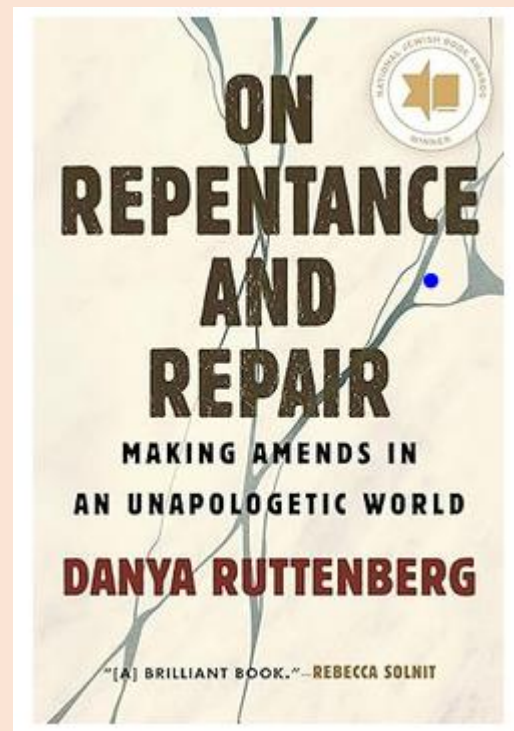
Francisco, and Los Angeles, CA. Husband to Mirna, father to Hector (age 19) and Marambinah (Binah) Asunción (age 8), Adam is a second generation Unitarian-Universalist who grew up in the Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists and participated as a camper and counselor at Rowe Junior High Camp (MA) as a youth. He has been a member, quite proudly, of both the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Kern County and the Unitarian Universalists of Santa Clarita Valley.

March 17th, 10:00 am

Please Note Earlier 10:00 am Start Time
We will Zoom into the UUFC Service from Vibe.

UU Common Book Read: *On Repentance and Repair*

Dr. Liora Gubkin Malicdem



In our aching world, the need for repair is palpable. Join Liora Gubkin Malicdem in a service that explores our UU Common Read *On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World*. No advance reading is required, but Liora hopes your interest will be piqued after this exploration of Jewish teachings on repentance and their relevance to all people who yearn for a world where everyone can flourish.

Special Zoom Link:

<https://zoom.us/j/92900581808?pwd=Q0ttYS9GcXBaOTVWR0p4UXo4V205dz09>

Meeting ID: 929 0058 1808

Passcode: 525251

Liora, a Jewish Unitarian Universalist, was a member of the UU Fellowship of Kern County before her recent move to San Diego to serve as Dean at CSU San Marcos. Liora earned her Ph.D. in religion and social ethics from the University of Southern California in their joint program with Hebrew Union College and a Certificate of Unitarian Universalist Studies from Starr King. She is the author of You Shall Tell Your Children: Holocaust Memory in U.S. Passover Haggadahs

Third Sunday Collection – For our dedicated Third Sunday collection this month, our UU of SCV board has chosen to support the work of **UU the VOTE 2024**.

What is UU the VOTE? It is a non-partisan civic engagement initiative focused on strengthening democracy and organizing for justice, accountability, and healing.



A Zoom Tip for When We Zoom into UUFKC's Service

Chris Hankla

Once each month UU of SCV zooms into worship hosted by the UU Fellowship of Kern County (UUFKC). Should you join in from home, rather than joining the Watch Party at Vibe, please stay on Zoom following the UUFKC worship portion of the service. A breakout room will be offered where you may continue in fellowship with those at Vibe. Don't miss out on Joys and Sorrows, the Benediction, and announcements specific to UU of SCV.

March 24th, 10:30 am

Richard Wade Is Our Guest Speaker



Richard Wade is a retired licensed Marriage and Family therapist, who has a website called "Friendly Atheist." In 2009, he began writing an advice column called "Ask Richard." He publishes his responses to email letters from people of all viewpoints, not just atheists. These usually deal with challenges or conflicts stemming from believers and nonbelievers living or working together. He tries to reduce unnecessary conflict and suffering on all sides.

In 2010, Richard wrote an article for The Humanist Magazine entitled "Is Joining the Unitarian Universalist Church a Betrayal of My Atheist Beliefs?" For it, he made a clandestine visit to – of all places -- our own UU of SCV service. In the article, he describes the service, a discussion with the minister, and discussions with members. He reported that he was met with "open-hearted acceptance," concluding that "you should feel comfortable visiting a UU congregation and giving it a try."

Richard has spoken as a "guest atheist" at several churches to dispel the misconceptions and false stereotypes about atheism and atheists. With accurate information, loving and respectful relationships don't have to be ruined by this difference in beliefs.

March 31st, 10:30 am

How Do Unitarian Universalists Relate to Easter?

Rev. Jo Green
UU of SCV Affiliate Minister



From our Unitarian roots during the Reformation to the present Transylvanian belief system, Unitarians and Universalists have celebrated the Resurrection.

How do present day UU's feel about Easter? Since we honor the Six Sources of our Living Tradition, this morning we can explore how the Christian and Jewish teachings inform some of our belief system. We will also explore how in Transylvania, our partners there honor this communion tradition.

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

A Spring Fling! Social

Graciously Penned by Chris Hankla
on behalf of the UUSCV Board of Trustees

Plan to attend UU of SCV's Spring Fling! social event this month.

Saturday, March 23rd

5:00 – 8:00 PM

Home of Suzie Rizzo



Disclaimer: Actual party may look different than depicted in picture. 😊

There promises to be fun games, good eats, and delightful camaraderie. The menu is potluck. Be sure to check with Diane Lin who is coordinating appetizers, entrees, and desserts.

This event marks the beginning of UU of SCV's stewardship campaign. Attendees will be able to sign up to participate in "Dining for Dollars" fundraising opportunities.

Get more details by emailing info@uuofscv.org. Hope to see you there!

Drum Circle

Beth Jenkins



Our meditative Drum Circle meets on the first Friday evening every month, at 7 pm –so this month we are meeting on **March 1st**.

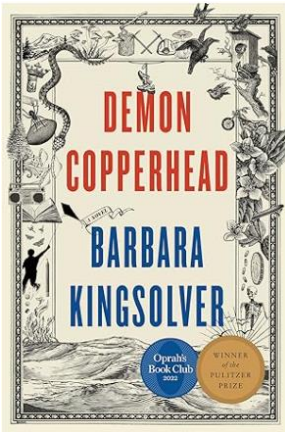
No experience necessary, and our Drum Circle leader Burl Bolerjack brings a great deal of drums and other percussion instruments from which to choose.

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.

March 13th - "Demon Copperhead," written by Barbara Kingsolver, is a fascinating tale of life in Appalachia. The well received book deals with countless issues, including addiction and poverty.

Please join us for a lively discussion.

April 10th - This meeting will review the books submitted by our readers. Please be prepared to review and discuss the two books you are proposing the club reads!

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

Movie Night

SEJ Team,
Submitted by Glenda Nowakowski



MOVIE NIGHT 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 for conversation and food. The film will start at 7:00 p.m.** 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 **March 8th** is "Made in L.A.". This documentary follows three Latina immigrants working in Los Angeles sweatshops as they embark on a three-year odyssey to win basic labor protections from a trendy clothing retailer. This film reveals the impact of the struggle on each woman's life as they are gradually transformed by the experience. It is deeply compelling.
Excerpts from the film jacket

The movie for April 12th will be a documentary on Henry A. Wallace.

Bend the Arc

Lou Paparozzi

**“THE ARC OF THE MORAL UNIVERSE IS LONG,
BUT IT BENDS TOWARD JUSTICE”**

- *Written by Unitarian Minister Rev. Theodore Parker*
- *Quoted by Abraham Lincoln and Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.*

This month's Bend the Arc meeting will be held on **March 20th**. 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



The Open Topics Discussion group talks about ideas that are of interest to us. Everyone gets to express their ideas on the monthly topic.

We meet the 4th Monday of each month at the home of Lois Linnert in Friendly Valley ,
We would love to have you join us!

Time: 6:00pm.
Date: March 25th

Topic for March: We will be answering a list of questions from Lois!!

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, March 2nd, 7:00 pm**

IN-PERSON Game Night -- In-person Game Nights will occur on the 4th 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 this month will be on **Friday, March 22, 6:40 pm** (note slightly later start time). 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](#)

Upcoming

“Dining for Dollars” Fundraising

Gratefully Penned by Chris Hankla
on behalf of the UUSCV Board of Trustees

At least three households have volunteered to prepare and serve gourmet meals for up to eight people who sign up to pay for the privilege of attending. All proceeds go to UU of SCV and will be applied as fundraising income which has been anticipated in the approved 2023-24 budget.

Your UU of SCV Board is looking for other volunteers to offer “Dining for Dollars” opportunities. Perhaps you would enjoy generously hosting a wine tasting, a specialty tea experience, or another creative opportunity for a small group of people.

Please contact Ken Brown and Tommie O’Sullivan before March 20th by email at boardvp@uuofscv.org.

And then, starting at the Spring Fling party on March 23rd, attendees will be able to sign up to attend one or more of the dinners.

Social & Environmental Justice

Social & Environmental Justice (SEJ) Team News

Louise Klatt & Glenda Nowakowski

WE ARE:

ALL CONNECTED

STRONGER TOGETHER

LOVE’S HANDS IN THE WORLD

CALLED TO CREATE JUSTICE

RESPONSIBLE FOR ONE
ANOTHER AND THE EARTH



UUSCV’s Social & Environmental Team would like to let you know some of the things that have been happening in our community.

Every Sunday at our services we collect food, personal care items and pet food for those less fortunate and donate to the SCV Food Pantry. Our team member, Ingrid Van Dorn volunteers at the SCV Food Pantry and she can advise you on what items are most needed. She recently let us know that they cannot accept any type of over-the-counter medications or ointments.

<https://www.scvfoodpantry.org/>

Did you know that Ingrid also orders fair trade coffee, tea & chocolate for members of our congregation? This supports small farmers, and it helps support our congregation too! [uusccoffeeprojecthandout.pdf](#) If you are interested in purchasing these products contact her at armo591@aol.com

The Santa Clarita chapter of the NAACP is planning to host more programs available to the general public. On February 15th, there was a showing of a new documentary “The Space Race” which explores the little-known stories of the first Black pilots and engineers who were pioneers of NASA's space program. In Downtown LA at the Peterson Automotive Museum there is an exhibit which features “The Negro Motorist Green Book” which was a travel guide for black people to find safe places to stay and eat during the Jim Crow era. The exhibit ends on March 10th. The local NAACP is working on helping people get registered to vote. To learn more about what’s happening in the local chapter go to naacpsc.org.

We have been following the Chiquita Canyon Landfill issue for a number of years, and on Thursday, February 22 there was a protest held there to close the toxic facility down. Here is an article that was in our local paper [Val Verde residents file petition to shut down Chiquita Canyon Landfill \(signalscv.com\)](http://signalscv.com)

Mental Health We are proud to have Barbara Wilson founder of “Mental Health Hook-up” on our team. She keeps us informed on the issues. Some of the problems facing people with severe mental health issues include the lack of Board & Care facilities available and State Measure 1 which will be on the ballot in the next election. We also support “NAMI” which helps families dealing with mental illness. There will be a Mental Health fair “Stop the Stigma” on May 18, 2024 at Henry Mayo Hospital from 10am- 2pm.

Other Activities by the SEJ team include:

Writing Postcards to elected officials on the issues. On the 2nd Sunday of the month a postcard writing table is set up in the annex after the service next to the coffee & snacks.

Movie Night on the 2nd Friday of the month (see article).

Camp DeBenneville “District Assembly”

On April 26-28, 2024, Camp de Benneville Pines is proud to sponsor our second annual “District” Assembly.

Our host this year is the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura with the support from their neighbors at Chalice UU Fellowship in Conejo Valley.

The theme this year is “Promoting Justice: Amplifying Voices at the Intersections of Race, Class, & Environment.”

Highlights of the weekend program include:

- **Keynote speaker Hop Hopkins**, who has been organizing for over 25 years at the intersections of race, class, gender, and the environment. Most recently, he was the director of organizational transformation at the Sierra Club, where he was instrumental in helping the organization evolve into a commitment to anti-racism.
- **Keynote speaker Lucas Zucker**, co-executive director of CAUSE (Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy) whose mission is to create grassroots power through community organizing, leadership development, coalition building, civic engagement, policy research, and advocacy to attain social, economic, and environmental justice for working-class and immigrant communities in California’s Central Coast.
- **Emma’s Revolution**, a camp and UU favorite, will perform for us. Emma's Revolution is an American folk music and social justice activist duo, consisting of songwriters Pat Humphries and Sandy Opatow (a.k.a. Sandy O).
- **PSWSA Youth Con**, a weekend youth conference and overnight gathering for UU youth in grades 8th through 12th!

Camp de Benneville Pines Annual Business Meeting, learn about what’s happening up at our spiritual mountain top home. Please sign up to be a delegate representing your congregation when you register.

There are two ways to attend this Assembly: In Person or Virtually via Zoom.

For more details, costs, and how to sign up:

[2024 Pacific Southwest Service Area Assembly - \(uucamp.org\)](https://uucamp.org)



The poster is divided into three horizontal sections. The top section is teal with the text 'Let's Gather' in white script, 'In Ventura for...' in white sans-serif, and 'UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST PACIFIC SOUTHWEST SERVICE AREA ASSEMBLY' in orange sans-serif. A large orange flower icon is on the right. The middle section is orange with the text 'Promoting Justice: Amplifying Voices' in dark brown serif, and 'at the Intersections of Race, Class & Environment' in dark brown sans-serif. The bottom section is teal with '+ Camp de Benneville Pines business meeting + Youth Con' in dark brown sans-serif, a large orange flower icon, and 'April 26-28, 2024' in orange script. At the bottom, it says 'In the tradition of the beloved PSWD annual assembly, this event is sponsored by Camp de Benneville Pines & hosted by Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura with support from their neighbors at Chalice UU.' and '?s about Assembly contact Janet director@uucamp.org'.

**Join Friends and Colleagues from throughout the
Pacific Southwest Service Areas (PSWD)
April 26-28, 2024**

Church Workings

Tribute Cards



UU of SCV's Tribute Card Program is an exceptional way to offer comfort, mark an occasion, or express personal gratitude to someone you care about, while supporting the work of the congregation.

This is how it works . . . You complete a Tribute Card form and send, or give, the form to Chris Hankla along with a donation check made out to UU of SCV. She will send a personalized card to the person or family you designate. You, the donor, will receive an acknowledgement that the card has been sent.

You can find a Tribute Card form online on UU of SCV's website at uuofscv.org by clicking on the "Donate" button. Or, you can find a form on the Membership Table each Sunday when we meet for worship at Vibe Performing Arts Studio on Lyons Blvd. in Newhall at 10:30 am.

REMEMBER – CELEBRATE – GIVE THANKS

Mobile Phone Texts

Chris Hankla

Mobile phone texts are used by UU of SCV for essential reminders and emergency alerts. Should you get a text from (833) 313-0483, know that it comes from UU of SCV through our church database. You can save that phone number in your mobile phone contact list as UU of SCV and the next time an important message is sent from that number, you will know it is a message from the church.

Board of Trustees

Highlights

Carmela Camp

- Board meetings through June will be held via Zoom at 5:00 pm on the following Sundays: March 24th, April 14th, May 19th and June 23rd.
- The Board's choice for the 3rd Sunday Collection in March is UU the Vote.
- The annual business meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 23rd following the service (at Vibe and on 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.

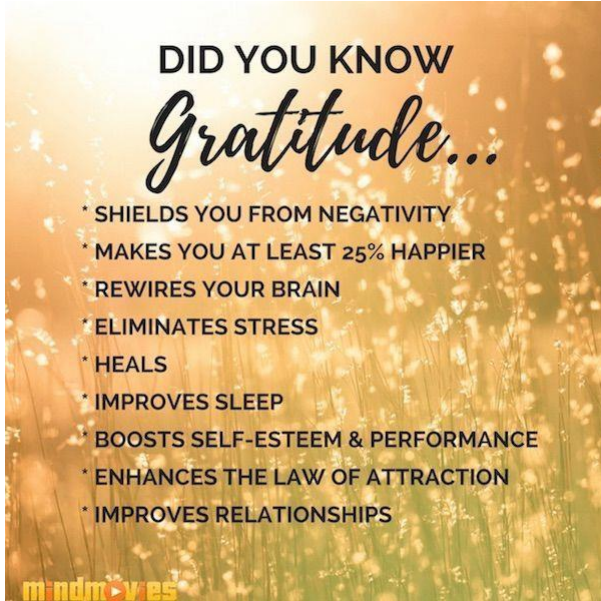
Remember we are here to help should you need it. And if needed we can connect you with our minister.

Primary contact is Barbara McCoy – 818 438-8351.

Membership

Membership Team

Gratitudes



... AND in addition to all these things, gratitude also helps show how much you appreciate your fellow congregation members!!!

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

Mark Urbach	03/05
-------------	-------

Membership Anniversaries

Suzie Rizzo	03/20/2016
Carmela Camp	03/27/2016
Karen Hatcher	03/01/2020
Warren Eckles	03/01/2020

CALENDAR

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

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

Sunday

- 3 **Sunday Service, 10:30 am**
Right to Be Wrong
Rev. Rebecca Benefiel Bijur

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

Sunday



- 10 **Sunday Service, 10:30 am**
The Bilingual Renaissance is Here – All Aboard!
Dr. Adam Sawyer

Post Card Writing -- Immediately after the Service

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

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

Sunday

- 17 **Sunday Service, 10:00 am**
UU Common Book Read: On Repentance & Repair
Liora Gubkin Malicdem
↑ ↑ ↑
Zoom (at Vibe) from UUFKC
Different Start Time: 10:00 am
Different Zoom Link for On-Line (see listing)

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

- 22 **In Person Game Night**, 6:30 pm, home of Beth Jenkins

- 23 **"A Spring Fling!" Social**,
5:00 – 8:00 pm, home of Suzie Rizzo

Sunday

- 24 **Sunday Service, 10:30 am**
Richard Wade, Guest Speaker

Board Meeting, 5:00 pm, Zoom

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

Sunday

- 31 **Sunday Service, 10:30 am**
How Do Unitarian Universalists Relate to Easter?
Rev. Jo Green

Meditation – Every Friday 11 am to noon, Zoom