



UU of SCV

The Flame

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Santa Clarita's Unitarian Universalist Congregation

October, 2024

UU of SCV Hires Rev. Dr. Jason Cook as Our Minister for This Church Year



Greetings!

I'm looking forward to being with you in person for the service on **Sunday, October 6**. Afterward, we will have a **"meet and greet" session** where we can all begin to get to know each other better. As I begin serving as your half-time minister, my initial goal will be to get to know who you are, both individually and as a congregation.

What's your personal story? What are your hopes, dreams, and wishes for UU of SCV?

In that spirit, we will soon be scheduling a **visioning workshop to take place in November**. This will be a time to remind us of our mission, discuss what shared ministry means, and set some attainable (but inspirational!) goals for this upcoming congregational year. I already know that this year I'd like to maximize my time with you. While I will be preaching for you on a regular basis, I would also like us to be strategically working toward goals UU of SCV may have in reaching more people in the larger community. How can we do that? Let's discover that together by being intentional in our approach to this shared ministry.

Shared ministry has been a theme throughout my own ministerial career. During my time as Admissions Director for Meadville Lombard, one of two UU theological schools, I worked closely with faculty, staff, and students so that we could meet the changing demands of ministry in these rapidly shifting times. Later, I served as Assistant Minister at Mt. Diablo, one of our largest UU congregations grappling with the changing nature of the role of faith communities in the lives of people today. **Again, what happened during that ministry was most successful when it was a collaborative effort.** The following eight years I spent at the UU Congregation in Fullerton was a time of rapid growth: moving to a new, larger building; responding to the pandemic; and re-envisioning their Religious Education program. In all these ministries, sometimes the lessons were painful and sometimes there was easily measurable success. **But the real strength of the ministry was always found in the relationships that we nurtured.** When those relationships are strong, then a

congregation can move assuredly through even challenging times.

Another thing I'm passionate about is the recognition that each of our lives is marked by personally challenging times. In the days ahead, we will look at implementing an on-going **check-in group** which I will facilitate. This will be a place to share struggles with grief, life transitions, caregiving for others, and so on. In my previous ministries, I have run separate grief, caregiver, and self-care groups. I have found that these groups ended up not only serving the congregation's deep spiritual healing needs, but they also served to fill important needs in the larger communities. **Many people end up finding a UU congregation through the presence of these kinds of designated caring spaces.**

My spouse Lawrence (a singer and painter who works as a finance manager at Caltech) and I live in the city of Santa Ana, so, at the moment, Santa Clarita is a bit of a commute for me. Nonetheless, I will be working in the coming days to let you know how we can stay in touch and feel consistently connected throughout my time with you.

Finally, I want to express how profoundly delighted I am to be with you. I have truly enjoyed each person I have met from this congregation. Your warmth, enthusiasm, and love for UU of SCV is palpable. Unitarian Universalism is currently in a place of transition: we are talking more about values than principles these days.

And, most radically, there is a movement-wide shift toward naming "love" as our faith center. What does that mean for UU of SCV? What opportunities does this present to us right at this moment? I'm excited to explore that together; in this place of inclusive, radical love, I believe there is fertile ground here for us to grow both as individuals and a congregation.

In the spirit of reason, justice, and—yes—love,
Rev. Dr. Jason Cook

Reach me at: minister@uuofscv.org or
rev.jasoncook@gmail.com

Rick Kamlet Becomes President of the Board of Trustees

Rick Kamlet



I am delighted to have been able to step into the position of Board President. As some of you may know, I have just transitioned into semi-retirement from my job at JBL Professional and will be fully retired in a number of months. With this time being available, I felt called to help UU of SCV in this way. I would like to extend a big thank you to Rev. Dr. Ken Brown who has been "holding down the fort" as Vice President (and having to do some of the duties of President), as well as the rest of the Board, who have been pitching in when needed.

I look forward to -- along with Rev. Jason -- the process of doing some new focused planning for the future of our congregation and setting some achievable goals for this church year -- whether that be increasing our influence in some targeted aspect of the community, the beginning of a new or stalled program, or whatever the congregational members feel is most important.

Being as I volunteered after the last congregational meeting, I was appointed to this position by the Board for now. At the same time, Carmela Camp was appointed to fill my previous position of Member at Large. The full congregation will vote on these changes at the mid-year Congregational Business Meeting.

I know that I will have a great team around me, and I am looking forward to serving UU of SCV in this role.

Sunday Services

October 6th, 10:30 am
Chasing Balloons
Rev. Dr. Jason Cook



Rev. Dr. Jason Cook introduces himself as UU of SCV's new half-time minister. In this time of change -- both in the world and in Unitarian Universalism -- how do we listen deeply as a faith community to what is calling us forward? What does it mean to be a congregation meeting this particular moment in time?

There will be a "meet and greet" session after the service, for getting to know each other better.

Rev. Dr. Jason Cook has previously served for eight years as the settled minister for the UU Congregation in Fullerton. Before that, he was assistant minister for the large congregation of Mt. Diablo UU. He has served as Admissions Director for Meadville Lombard Theological School, one of two designated UU seminaries. His recently completed doctoral work tackles how our faith communities can offer spiritual healing for a nation that has suffered narcissistic abuse. In his spare time, Rev. Jason can be found performing on stage in Orange and Los Angeles counties, or spending time with his husband, Lawrence. Rev. Jason is delighted to serve as UU of SCV's half-time minister.

October 13th, 10:30 am
Deep Thoughts

Rev. Jo Green
UU of SCV Affiliate Minister



So much of our culture through the centuries has used various forms of meditation or deep listening to calm ourselves down or center ourselves when we feel befuddled or anxious. What are some of the ways you help yourselves to remain calm when you are feeling fearful or apprehensive? You may discover that there are other ways to remain in a state of calm that will aid in finding your center and living your life with more fulfillment than you previously thought. This Sunday morning let us explore how to make ourselves more calm, to live more happy, joyous and free!

Join us, live at our Sunday services ...

Vibe Performing Arts Studio,
Valencia Plaza Shopping Center,
24460 ¼ Lyons Ave

... 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

October 20th, 10:30 am

Listening to the Ancestors

Rev. Dr. Jason Cook



This time of year brings us Halloween, All Souls' Day, and Dia de los Muertos, there has been an historical emphasis on listening to the voices of our ancestors. Whose voices are we individually remembering during this season of Autumn? And as Unitarian Universalists, what voices are speaking to us right now? Rev. Jason preaches.

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October 27th, 10:30 am



Feeding the Wolf

Rev. Anne Hines



An old Cherokee story suggests that we all carry within us two wolves - one of love and forgiveness, the other of anger and fear, and that they are in constant struggle with one another. As Unitarian Universalists who "affirm and promote justice, equity and compassion," who do we reconcile these two parts of our being? And how does this story get manifest in our national culture?

Rev. Anne Felton Hines has served UU congregations in Southern California since 1984. Upon retiring in 2014, Emerson UU Church granted her Minister Emerita status, and since then she has served congregations in a variety of roles. She is president of the San Fernando Valley Chapter of the ACLU, works (sometimes) on her memoir, and volunteers weekly as a pianist at Kaiser Medical Center in Woodland Hills.

Activities

Drum Circle

Hosted at the home of Beth Jenkins

Drum Circle will be held on **Friday, October 4th**, hosted at the home of Beth Jenkins.

Our monthly Drum Circle is always the first Friday of the month, **7:00 pm**, at the following address: 27335 Weathersfield Dr, Valencia, CA 91354. No experience is needed, and you can bring your own drum (or other percussion instrument) or use one of the many supplied by our expert Drum Circle leader Burl Bolerjack. Bring a friend or family member(s) ages 8 and up (must be able to sit for 1.5 hours and focus on the leader's and others' drum beats, to fit their own unique beat into the group sound).

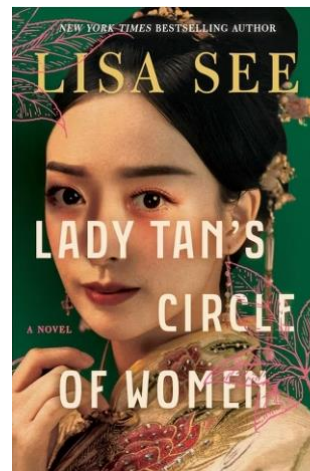
Donations are much appreciated to pay for Burl's travel and other expenses (usual amount is \$10, but if you bring children please do not feel obligated to donate for them). Burl generously shares half the donation amount to UU of SCV, and it has accumulated to be several hundred dollars per year!

For any questions, concerns, or directions, as well as to RSVP (that is MUCH appreciated, so Beth knows how many chairs to put out), please email Beth Jenkins at: newbethj@gmail.com.

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 (vegan and vegetarian preferred) and a beverage of your choice, as well as your thoughts and your critique.



UUSCV's Covid Policy is followed.

On **October 9th** we will be discussing "Lady Tan's Circle of Women," by Lisa See. This is a marvelous historical fiction about women's health in the 15th century.

On November 13 we will be discussing "James" by Perceval Everett. This provocative novel is through the eyes of James, Huckleberry Finn's Black traveling companion as they moved down the Mississippi River. James is the runaway slave who has a point of view that needs expressing.

Contact Ingrid Van Dorn (armo591@aol.com) or Marianne Bakic (mariannebakic@icloud.com) if you have any questions.

Movie Night

SEJ Team,
Suzie Rizzo

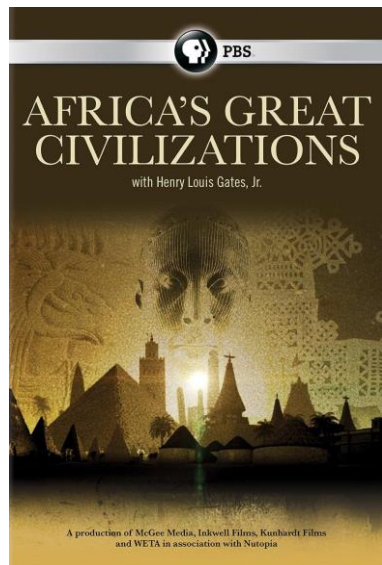
SEJ is having movie night.

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, to vegan and vegetarian preferred. You may contact Suzie at baroness1@sbcglobal.net if you have any questions.

The documentary movie for **October 18th** is an additional part of "Africa's Great Civilization." This movie is narrated by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Professor Gates travels the length and breadth of Africa to chronicle the continent's history from a firmly African perspective. His journey takes him from the city of Great Zimbabwe, to the pyramids of Meroe, and the spectacular rock-hewn churches of Lalibela in Ethiopia. *[excerpts from the film jacket.]*

The movie for November 8 is another part of "Africa's Great Civilization."



Game Nights

hosted by Beth Jenkins

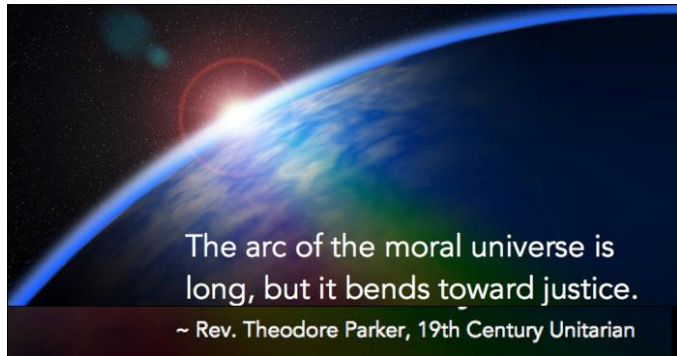
ZOOM Game Night -- Our monthly ZOOM Game night usually is the first Saturday of each month, which for this month is **October 5th**. Join us for a wild Pictionary type game and possible Scattagories and/or Boggle -- ALL on your computer/laptop! The fun begins at **7:00 pm**, and it is easy to join: just use the same UU of SCV ZOOM room link that is listed in our weekly announcements and our monthly newsletter to join. This is a great evening, enjoyed from the comfort of your home. No need to stay for the whole evening (we usually go until 8:30-9:00 PM)-- give this fun way to get to know your fellow congregation members or visitors a try! No drawing skills needed; just a good sense of humor.

IN-PERSON Game Night -- Come join us for our monthly IN-PERSON Game Night at the home of Beth Jenkins, usually the 4th Friday of each month. This month the date will be **Friday, October 25th, 6:30 pm**. Please RSVP to Beth Jenkins at: newbethj@yahoo.com (*note: this is a different email address than for Drum Circle at Beth's home*). And please include what potluck item you will be bringing, so we don't all bring desserts! (BYOB for drinks). This is a very fun and lively evening of good food, great conversation, lots of laughs, and (not very competitive) table games (mostly word games).

Note: as with all of our Affiliation groups, you do not need to be a member or even a visitor to UU of SCV to attend any of our regular monthly activities, and you are encouraged to invite friends, including to the ZOOM game night (we have one regular attendee who lives in Northern California!).

Bend the Arc Discussion Group

Suzie Rizzo



Bend the Arc, a political discussion group under the auspices of the Social and Environmental Justice Team will meet on the third Wednesday of October, **October 16th**, at our usual time, **6:00 pm for potluck and chatting, and 6:30 pm for serious discussion.**

If you have any questions or want additional information, please contact Suzie Rizzo at baroness1@sbcglobal.net.

Open Topics Discussion Group

Barbara McCoy & Lois Linnert



We sit in a room with other people and discuss various topics, the topic being different each month. That is our Discussion Group and we would

love for you to join us. Each month we meet on the 4th Monday (**Oct 28th**), at the home of Lois Linnert at **6:00 pm**. We bring food to share, so we can socialize before the discussion begins.

The discussion topic for October (Monday October 28th) will be: *If the United States had a Constitutional Convention, what do you think should be changed or modified?*

If you have any questions or suggestions, please call Lois Linnert at 661-299-5393.

Friday Meditations on Zoom

Barbara Wampole



"The quieter you become, the more you are able to hear" – Rumi

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.

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



Christine Andress, Louise Klatt, Lynne Plambeck, and Glenda Nowakowski at the River Rally

SCV Food Pantry - Every week we collect food, personal care items, pet food empty egg cartons to donate to the SCV food Pantry. Look for basket located near the cart holding the hymnals. For more information go to [SCV Food Pantry - Santa Clarita Valley Food Pantry](#)

Purple Walk -- Join us on Saturday October 5th for this meaningful and inspiring 5K color walk. Proceeds are critical to support domestic violence services for individuals and their children who are in abusive relationships. All registrations include Pancake Breakfast and Medal. Pets are welcome to join the walk for free. Walking alongside your pup

serves as a reminder of the many pets lost to domestic violence and celebrates the healing support they provide to their survivors. Pups receive an official "Wag" bag filled with yummy treats and special gifts. [Purple Walk Registration - Child Family Center](#) (Note- if you want to walk but need a sponsor to help with the cost of registration, or if you want to sponsor a walker, please contact Louise (information is in our congregational directory) or email the co-chairs at sej@uuofscv.org

A promotional poster for the Purple Walk 5K Domestic Violence Awareness 5K. The poster features a purple ribbon logo, the text 'PURPLE Walk DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS 5K', and logos for Child Family Centers, Subaru, and Hello Subaru of Valencia. It includes the event details: 'JOIN THE WALK OR SUPPORT A TEAM 5K PURPLE WALK SUPPORTING CHILD & FAMILY CENTER'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM', '21545 CENTRE POINTE PKWY SANTA CLARITA, CA', '8:00 AM TO 11:00 AM', '5 OCTOBER 2024', and 'WALK STARTS AT 9:15 AM'. It also lists activities: 'MUSIC, PANCAKE BREAKFAST, ARTS & CRAFTS, DOGS WELCOME, VENDOR BOOTHS AND MORE!' and registration information: 'REGISTRATION & SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE AT CHILDFAMILYCENTER.ORG'. The poster also features several circular images showing people walking and a hand holding a purple ribbon.

Pride Picnic -- Saturday, October 5th from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm at Dr. Richard Rioux Park in Stevenson Ranch. Look for our UU of SCV booth as you enjoy an afternoon of family-friendly fun, community spirit, and vibrant celebrations of our local LGBTQ+ community. This year's picnic is packed with thrilling activities including games, fantastic prizes, and live entertainment. For more details go to <https://www.scvlgbtqcenter.org>. Or contact SCVLGBTQCenter@gmail.com.



Regular Monthly Activities by the SEJ team include:

Writing Postcards -- 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. It is your opportunity to share your opinions and concerns with our government officials. Postcard, postage and information is provided for you. Afterward, you can join us for our monthly team meeting in person or via

Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/ZoomUUSCV>

Movie Night -- SEJ is having movie night on October 18th this month. 6:00 pm for conversation and food and 7:00 pm for the film. Please see the Movie Night article elsewhere in this newsletter.

Peace Vigil – We join “Grandmothers for Peace” monthly. Due to extreme heat over the summer months we had to reschedule our vigil a few times. We were finally able to get out to our usual location on September 15th. Note that all are welcome. You do not have to be a grandmother (or female) to be with us in solidarity for peace. For more information contact Louise Klatt or Glenda Nowakowski or email us at sej@uuofscv.org

If you are interested in our community outreach you can find members of our team at these community meetings. You are more than welcome to attend these meetings with us.

- PFLAG meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 pm at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church.
- NAACP meets on the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm at the Northpark HOA clubhouse.
- Citizen’s Climate Lobby - CCL meets on the second Saturday of the month at 10 am via Zoom. Contact Suzie Rizzo to get on the mailing list.

The next meeting of the SEJ Team will be on October 13th, both live at Vibe and on Zoom. There will be postcard writing to our elected officials in the annex between the end of the service and the start of the meeting. Materials will be provided for postcard writing. Everyone is welcome to join us for the postcard writing and the meeting.

Camp

Unfortunately, our annual autumn retreat with our UU neighbors from Ventura and the LA/Valley cluster was canceled. At the time of this article, Camp de Benneville Pines was closed due to the Line Fire in the San Bernardino Mountains. Fortunately, once again our lovely mountain retreat center was spared from the flames.

With the cancellation of camps comes the obvious—the lack of camp revenue, the refunding of camp fees and the lack of monthly cash flow. Our UUofSCV board held a special collection on Sunday September 29th to help our beloved camp's Fire Relief Fund, and our Board is matching the collection on a dollar-for-dollar basis (up to a total of \$150).



The "Line Fire" on Sept 14th

We are looking forward to the forest re-opening for recreational use so we can enjoy the events up at camp again soon! For more information about camp's re-opening contact Janet James director@uucamp.org



Homet Lodge and the Camp stand unwavering during the nearby fire.

Church Workings

Key topics from the Aug 18th Meeting of the UUSCV Board of Trustees:

- The Board welcomed our incoming minister, Rev. Dr. Jason Cook, to the meeting.
- Between an anonymous donor and our September Third Sunday collection, the congregation has enough money for our technology needs.
- The Board approved a special collection to take place on Sunday, September 29th. The collection will benefit Camp de Benneville Pines, which is seriously in need of donations because of smoke and soot damage from the Line Fire.

Board Officers

President – Rick Kamlet (new)
Vice President - Rev. Dr. Ken Brown
Co-Treasurer - Eric Klatt
Co-Treasurer – Chris Hankla
Secretary - Glenda Nowakowski
Member-at-Large - Gordon Uppman
Member-at-Large – Diane Lin
Member-at-Large – Carmela Camp (new)

Pastoral Care

Your UU of SCV Pastoral Care Team

The Pastoral Care Team serves those in our congregation needing support. 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:

Pastoral care is offered with strict confidentiality. It is available to those experiencing illness, injury, grief, loneliness, or an 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

Birthdays

Mirna Sawyer	10/12
Karen Hatcher	10/13
Dru Hiller	10/23
Barbara Wilson	10/27

Membership Anniversaries

Mark Urbach	10/20/2019
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As Always, Gratitude to All!

Everyone in our congregation helps 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.

CALENDAR

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

Meditation – Every Friday 11 am to noon, Zoom

4 Drum Circle, 7 pm, Beth Jenkin's home

5 Purple Walk, see flyer

Pride Picnic, 1 – 5 pm

ZOOM Game Night, 7 pm

Sunday

6 Sunday Service, 10:30 am

Chasing Balloons

Rev. Dr. Jason Cook

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

Sunday

13 Sunday Service, 10:30 am

Deep Thoughts

Rev. Jo Green

Postcard Writing, after the service

Social & Environmental Justice Team,
12:00 noon, at Vibe and via Zoom

16 Bend the Arc, Suzie Rizzo's home, 6:00 pm for snacks 6:30 – 7:30 pm for discussion

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

Sunday

20 Sunday Service, 10:30 am

Listening to the Ancestors

Rev. Dr. Jason Cook

Board Meeting, 5 pm

25 IN-PERSON Game Night, 6:30 pm,
Beth Jenkin's home (rsvp)

Sunday

27 Sunday Service, 10:30 am

Feeding the Wolves

Rev. Anne Hines

28 Open Topics Discussion Group, 6:00 pm,
Lois Linnert's home