



# Pacific Unitarian Church

A Unitarian Universalist Community

Committed to the Free and Responsible Search for Truth, Meaning, and Service

# The View



November 23, 2011

Hi,

...and check out THE VIEW from PUC and see some of what we have to be thankful for @ PUC...RREEEEAAADDD AAALL ABOOOOUUTT IT!

**Have a Happy Thanksgiving!!!**

If you're having trouble reading the View in your email, [click here to download the PDF version](#)



## Heart & Soul

### A Time to Be Thankful

Thanksgiving is a wonderful holiday. No gifts to buy, no cards to send (although I did get one this year and was thankful)—nothing but celebrating families, friends, and food. Oh, and thankfulness. We are entering the holiday season which for some is a sad and lonely time. There are no quick fixes for this kind of sorrow, but there is a way to lighten the load—for everyone. The people I have companioned through some of their darkest times have taught me this: there is always something to be grateful for. Always. All that is necessary to see the blessings in any day, in every day, is to look at the world through the lens of gratitude. If you look for things to be grateful for, you will find them, I promise. Give some thought to thanksgiving this Thanksgiving.

*The unthankful heart... discovers no mercies; but let the thankful heart sweep through the day and, as the magnet finds the iron, so it will find, in every hour, some heavenly blessings!*

—Henry Ward Beecher (June 24, 1813 – March 8, 1887), prominent Unitarian clergyman, social reformer and abolitionist

—Teri

Rev. Teri Masters, Interfaith Minister  
Director of Pastoral Care

## This Sunday

9 AM: 7 Principles & 12 Steps Group

9:30 AM: Humanist Forum

10:30 AM Service  
**Be Who You Are**  
Rev. John Morehouse

11:30 AM: Coffee Hour

*Sunday's Flowers are "In memory of my Mother, **Celia Fairbanks Paddock.**" —Jennifer Hocutt*

**Oil Paintings by Sue Cutler and Helge Nielsen elucidate PUC's Art Wall through Sunday, December 4**



**12/3, 4-8 PM Holiday Party & West Wall Windows Celebration** ([see more below](#)) (just in time to view a gorgeous sunset at 4:44)

**2/18, 7:30 PM Annual Black & White Concert**, featuring some of PUC's many talented musicians and our Yamaha Concert Grand Piano will be held on **Saturday, February 18!**

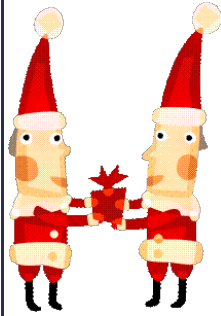
## Upcoming Sermons

November's Monthly Theme

Director of Pastoral Care  
[pastoralcare@pacificunitarian.org](mailto:pastoralcare@pacificunitarian.org)  
(310) 634-7617

## Santa's Workshop is Almost Here!

Get ready for some holiday cheer! On **Sunday, Dec. 4** during



Coffee Hour our RE Voyagers and other youth will put on our annual **Santa's Workshop Sale to benefit Rainbow Services, Harbor Interfaith Services, and Toberman Neighborhood Center.** Come "shop" the sale for new toys and clothing, then immediately donate them back, and we'll deliver them to these deserving organizations. We've done the shopping for you!

All you have to bring is your checkbook and generous spirit!

—Your RE Committee

## 12 Months to a More Compassionate Community

**Adult Lifespan Development encourages all PUC members and friends to embark on an All-Church, in-depth examination & reflection of *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life* by Karen Armstrong beginning January 1, 2012.**

Adult Lifespan Development will begin organizing an **in-depth, all-church** study of Karen Armstrong's book *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*. **We will begin by viewing Karen's Keynote speech to the 2011 UUA General Assembly on December 4 @ 12 noon.** We will then ask everyone who wishes to participate to get copies of the book (we will have copies available to borrow or purchase) and then we will begin a reflection group that will meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month from 9am – 10:15 AM beginning January 22, 2012. There will be many ways to reflect and discuss the concepts in this book amongst ourselves and hopefully some ways to put our faith into action, as well.

The concepts in this book blend nicely with the work already being done by the Standing on the Side of Love organization, as well as offering possible solutions for the lack of compassion that we see in our government and our country. This is also part of our preparation

for participation in **Justice General Assembly 2012 in Phoenix.** We, as Unitarian Universalists, are in a prime position to affirm and promote these concepts in the greater community but we must "cultivate and expand" our own understanding of living a compassionate life before we can set out to create compassionate communities.

For more information, please visit the [Charter for Compassion website](#), email [ARE@pacificunitarian.org](mailto:ARE@pacificunitarian.org), or Contact: **Kathy Rickey** or **Rev. John Morehouse**.

## A.R.M.ed for Bear? No; for Cub Scouts

**Daniel Monnier and John Daley** represented PUC's A.R.M. (Addiction and Recovery Ministry) at a Cub Scout meeting in Manhattan Beach on October 25. In case it's been a while since you've had involvement with the Scouts, they promote respect, maturity and good values. We had the honor of assisting in educating the boys on the dangers of drugs, alcohol and tobacco. After a brief

## November's Monthly Theme: *Temperance*

### 11/27: *Be Who You Are*

Ultimately, we need to align who we are with what we do in order to live a meaningful life. **Rev. John** suggests how we might do just that.

## December's Monthly Theme: *Hope*

### 12/4: *On to Oz*

**Rev. John** reflects on a hero's journey that has brought us this far. Included in the Service will be a prayer of dedication for our new West Wall.

### 12/11: *Here's Hoping!*

**Rev. Teri Masters, Interfaith Minister**

This is a season of darkness not just in our skies but in our world at large and in the personal lives of many.

As we wait for the return of light, how can we hang on to hope?

### 12/18: *Lighting Our Way to Something More*

The short days approaching Christmas are often challenging. In this Service we will explore the sources of light in and around our lives. We will sing of light as **Rev. John** shares his message of Hope.

### 12/24: *Christmas Eve Service*

Once again we will celebrate Christmas with our traditional multi-generational candlelight Service of story and song.

### 12/25: *No Sunday Worship Service.* Merry Christmas!!!



## PASTORAL CARE NEWS:

**Long time PUC member Marge Hill** died in the early morning hours of Sunday, Nov. 6. There will be a Memorial Service for her at PUC on **Saturday, November 26** at 2 PM.

**Margaret Ellis** died early this past Saturday, Nov. 19. Her Memorial Service will be held at PUC THIS

introduction the scouts were presented with a trust exercise, the trust fall. Though the activity was a little rocky it helped to set the mood for a surprisingly upbeat discussion on some very serious topics.

It also provided us with a moment to speak on the dangers of over-the-counter and prescription medication. We then discussed the ten most abused drugs in the United States; the first two being the legal ones of alcohol and tobacco. As the talk gained momentum and the scouts started getting more interested, the parents joined in and the discussion even brought some tears to one of the audience members. Thanks to the Cub Scouts for inviting us.

—Daniel Monnier and John Daley

Service will be held at PUC THIS  
**Sunday, November 27** at 2 PM

\*\*If you are looking to deepen your service to others in our community, please call me at (310) 634-7617.

Please keep in mind the people in our community who are holding sorrow in their hearts.

—Rev. Teri

### **Recurring Events**

#### **Sundays**

Adult Forums, 9:30 AM, L  
YRUU High School Group. 10:30 AM, L  
All-Church Potluck Brunch, 1st Sun., P  
Singles-Family Brunch, 4th Sun., 12:30 PM, Offsite  
Monthly Town Hall Mtg, 3rd Sun., H

#### **Mondays**

Women's Circle, 4th Monday, 10 AM, L  
Environmental Covenant Group, 1st Mon., 7:15 PM, L

#### **Tuesdays**

Addictions & Recovery Ministry Mtg, 2nd Tues., 7 PM, L

#### **Wednesdays**

Women's Fed, 3rd Wed., 11 AM, offsite  
**Occupy Torrance, Wed. 4-6 PM, O**  
**21323 Hawthorne Blvd. Torrance**  
Choir Practice: Wed., 7 PM, H

#### **Thursdays**

Seniors Pow Wow to Share How, 3rd Thurs., 11 AM, L  
Environmental Priorities Mg, 1st Thurs., 7 PM, L  
Men's Ministry, 7 PM, V  
Green Sanctuary/Transition Coffee Clatch. 2nd & 4th Thurs., 8-9 PM, Catalina Coffee Co.

#### **Fridays**

Watercolor Workshop, 10 AM - noon, H  
Friday Afternoon SGM, 2nd & 4th

### **Leadership Academy #3**

**Monday, Nov. 28 @**

**7:00pm**

This workshop is entitled: *Facing Danger*. It is the first in the *Path* module— 'How will we lead' and the third in the *Leadership and the Individual* module. It will highlight the dangers or pitfalls that leaders may face.

Participants will explore and articulate some of the risks and dangers that come with leading a congregation or organization through adaptive change. Through the ancient, familiar story of Moses, participants consider the challenges leaders face and identify strengths and strategies that can help. Participants express creatively their identity as congregational leaders and share resources and understandings that help them when they face danger in a leadership role. This workshop will be led by **Kathy Rickey**

\*The Leadership Academy is a drop-in, interactive workshop style learning experience. There are no pre-requisite courses. Sign up

in the PUC Office or email [ARE@pacificunitarian.org](mailto:ARE@pacificunitarian.org).

—Kathy Rickey

### **Occupy PV Gets Underway**

A vigil on the Peninsula starts this **Saturday, November 26**, from 11 AM to 1 PM in front of Bank of America and Chase Bank on Hawthorne Blvd close to Silver Spur Road. All who want to take part are welcome.

—Rachel Bruhnke

### **Happy 50th Anniversary, Camp de Benneville Pines!**

Have you ever searched for a subtle light to guide your path, thought it would be impossible to find, and then found it in abundance? During the planning for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Camp de Benneville Pines this summer, Camp Director Janet James needed historical materials to share with member churches of the PSWD. Written anecdotes and black and white photographs slowly emerged to tell the tale of the Boy Scout camp that became our UU conference center in 1961.



Left: The original concrete slab and fireplace that survived a devastating fire in 1960 to become the foundation of our beloved Homet Lodge.

Janet wondered if these few found items would be



enough to convey the crucial development of the camp to modern audiences. One day she received a phone call from Medford, Oregon. The caller had bought a trunk from a garage sale and discovered an 8 mm film can inside, titled "The Building of Homet Lodge, de Benneville Pines".

Curiosity, potential profit, and the internet brought the caller straight to Janet. Originally looking to sell the film, the caller was swayed by Janet's enthusiasm and agreed to part with the film for the mere cost of postage.

Too often do we take the present for granted, unburdened by the effort required to create the sanctuary we now enjoy. By shovels and hand picks UU's from all over the district laid the water system by hand. With crews of church teens they erected cabins. With the help of contractors, Homet lodge was built. Take a moment to view our parents' and grandparents' leap of faith as they labored together to



construct our beautiful mountain camp 50 years ago.

Camp de Benneville Pines is owned by the collective membership of the PSWD. We are one of the few UU districts to own its own retreat center. What a treasure we have in de

Beautiful Homet Lodge in 1964

Benneville Pines!

[Click here to watch the 50-year-old footage found in a trunk in Oregon, as well as listen to delightful interviews with campers.](#)

## UUSC HOLIDAY CARDS are **HERE!**



There is a great selection this year! See Sandy McNeil on the Patio on Sundays.

## Eat Pie to Create Jobs!

It's the time of year for pecan pies, praline cookies, pecan candies, and other pecan treats!

These are great things to eat and give to friends as gifts. And they taste even better when the pecans come from the Southern Alternatives Agricultural Cooperative (SAAC), a UUSC partner. SAAC is a socially responsible pecan-processing cooperative that creates jobs in southwest Georgia. SAAC is the only African American-owned pecan-shelling facility in the United States — and it is run by women. [Order your fair-trade pecans today, to give as gifts or use in baking!](#)

The pecan candy flavors available for gift bags include double-dipped-chocolate pecans, cinnamon-and-sugar pecans, honey-crisp pecans, and many other choices. Yummy!

—Sandy McNeil, UUSC Local Rep.

## Join Us for a West Wal(Ho)liday Party on 12/3



4-8 PM, Saturday, December 3 (just in time to view the gorgeous sunset at 4:44)

### **Holiday Party & West Wall Celebration**

Imagine your favorite Holiday Song. Now imagine how good it's going to sound with Dr. Severin

Behnen at the piano and lots of your friends singing along. We will have lyric books for the traditional songs, and please bring a copy of music and/or words if you have a newer song that you especially enjoy this time of year.

Bring a **potluck item**, help decorate our tree and Sanctuary, join Severin at the piano for great music.

Fri., 1-3 PM, V

GBLQ Movie, 2nd Fri., 7 PM, L

## **Saturdays**

Dinners with UUs, 2nd Sat. of even-numbered months, 7 PM, offsite

French Conversation Grp, 2nd & 4th Sat., 10 AM, V. Call Frank Paulsen or Betty Chevron

## **The Weekend At a Glance**

### **Wed., November 23, 2011**

7 PM Choir Practice - NO MTG.  
TONIGHT DUE TO HOLIDAY

### **Thursday, November 24, 2011**

Thanksgiving Day - Office Closed  
8:30 AM Aerobics - H  
10 AM Tai Chi - Stephen Tang-H  
7 PM Men's Ministry - V  
8 PM Environmental Coffee Clatch - Catalina Coffee Co. Redondo Bch

### **Friday, November 25, 2011**

Office Closed  
10 AM Watercolor Wkshp - NO MTG. TODAY DUE TO HOLIDAY  
1 PM Friday Afternoon SGM - NO MTG. TODAY DUE TO HOLIDAY

### **Saturday, November 26, 2011**

10 AM French Conversation Grp - V [2nd & 4th Saturdays]  
10:30 AM Introduction to Liberal Theology Class - L  
**2 PM Marge Hill Memorial Service - H**

### **Sunday, November 27, 2011**

9 AM 7 Principles & 12 Steps Grp - CR2  
9:30 AM Humanist Forum - L  
10:30 AM Sunday Services-H  
11:30 AM Social Justice Cmte - MG  
11:45 AM Kids' Choir Rehearsal - CR1  
11:45 AM Holiday Party Planning Meeting - L  
12:30 PM Singles-Family Brunch - O  
**2 PM Margaret Ellis Memorial Service - H**

\$5 suggested donation at the door.  
Please contact Patricia Hart at 310-658-1074 or [via email](#) if you are able to help with decorations and/or clean-up.



Contact [Leadership Development Committee](#) to volunteer/find out more.

**Hospitality Coordinator:** Ensure

*Hosts are scheduled for every Sunday Coffee Hour and monthly brunches; order fair trade coffee.*

**Welcome Table Coordinator:** Ensure Welcome Table Hosts scheduled for each Sunday.

### Your Old Towels Can Help Animals in Need

I'm collecting old towels for the Castaic Animal shelter. The shelter is in dire need and I said I would help. Even 1 item will add up to 2 and then 2 will become 4... you know the drill. I'm reaching out to my friends because you know my concerns for critters. I'm concerned about you too, but I'll rather give you a big hug not an old towel. Please contact me if you can help!

—Mariann Mueck

### It's SHOWTIME Again....POOF!!!

Free Magic Show with PUC's own **MartyG**, Magician, among others @ 7PM, **Saturday, December 17**

Farmers & Merchant's Bank Community Room

[12535 Seal Beach Bl](#)

[Seal Beach CA](#)

Thanks to those who've lent their support! Be there or be another shape!

—MartyG, Magician (aka marty Gorman)

Hi friends! *Our grandkids are coming for Xmas (yippee!), and we need to borrow a bunch of baby equipment.* We'd like to turn that need into a mini-fundraiser for PUC. [See more here!](#)

[Read more details](#) or [submit your posting request](#).

Contact the PUC Office for Member Section login details.

### Fourth Sunday Hospitality

**Coffee Hour Host:** YRUU Teen Group

**Ushers:** YRUU Teen Group

**Welcome Table:** Virginia McCulloch/Ramos & Marian Jones

**Greeters:** YRUU Teen Group (Thanks to Betty & Vic Paieda for filling in this month!)

