



# Pacific Unitarian Church

A Unitarian Universalist Community

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

# The View



December 8, 2011

Hi,

...but enough about MY travails! Check out THE VIEW from PUC and see the BRIGHT and SPARKLY new offerings the New Year has in store for us @ PUC...RREEEAAADDD AAALL ABOOOOUUTT IT!

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



## Minister's Message

### Shine Your Light

Last Sunday we dedicated our beautiful new West Wall. Its transparent Pacifica Blue glass soars us upward beckoning us onward to new beginnings and new hope. During the Service we prayed that this wall would be a symbol for the open search for truth and meaning. The wall allows us to see out into our beautiful world so in need of healing and allows others to look into our community as a source of spiritual nurturance.

As we enter the season of Christmas, I invite all of us to open our hearts to the light of each other. We may not be able to avoid the pain of life, but we can relieve the suffering with the hope of our community. Frances and I will be a bit later getting our holiday cards to all of you but you are not far from our hearts. This season, consider bringing some light to those who share in our spiritual community; consider sending a holiday greeting by card or email to your fellow PUC members. Sending and receiving a simple greeting is like opening a window to the light of another. Let your light shine.

With Grace and Grit,  
—Rev. John

[Minister@pacificunitarian.org](mailto:Minister@pacificunitarian.org)

### GLBTQ Movie for December 2011: RENT



Chris Columbus's faithful adaptation of [Rent](#), the Tony Award-winning musical set in New York's East Village which boasts a slew of stars from the show's original

## This Sunday

9:30 AM: Humanist Forum  
*This Sunday: Petitionary Prayer - Effective or Silly?*


10:30 AM Service  
*Here's Hoping!*  
Rev. Teri Masters,  
Interfaith Minister

11:30 AM: Coffee Hour

*Patricia Hart & Kathryn Loseff brought Sunday's Flowers from Kathryn's garden to celebrate their friendship.*

Photos of their recent travels by **Noel Hammond & Marvel Burke** bedeck PUC's Art Wall through **Sunday, January 1st**



 **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*  
**December's Monthly Theme:**  
**HOP**



which boasts a slew of stars from the show's original Broadway cast, including Adam Pascal, Anthony Rapp, Idina Menzel, Taye Diggs and Jesse L. Martin. Based on Puccini's opera "La Boheme," the story follows a group of scrappy bohemians who face true love, broken hearts, drug addiction, and AIDS -- and paying rent to high-powered oppressors.

Please join us on **Friday, December 8** at 7 PM in the PUC Library for our next GLBTQ Movie.

## 12 Months to a Compassionate Community



Thank you to everyone who stayed after Church last Sunday to watch Karen Armstrong's Keynote Address to the UUA GA, kicking off our All-Church Study of her book *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*.

If you were unable to attend but would still like to view the speech, you can watch it right in your own home via the link on the [PUC website](#). You can also order the book via the [bookstore link](#) and PUC gets a percentage of the sales.

A Sunday morning discussion group will begin **January 29** at 9 AM and then meet every **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday** thereafter. We will be discussing Step One. If there is sufficient interest, I will include a Sunday evening discussion group. Interested in participating on Sunday evening? Please email [ARE@pacificunitarian.org](mailto:ARE@pacificunitarian.org). For information about the Charter for Compassion, please visit [www.charterforcompassion.org](http://www.charterforcompassion.org).

## Leadership Academy Picks Up Steam! Try a Module!

**A monumental event! We have just completed the first module in our Leadership Academy: *Leadership and the Individual*.** Congratulations to **Yvonne Godfrey** for being the first to complete a module--LA101, LA201 and LA301. The November 28 workshop had 9 attendees! Word is getting out that you actually have fun while you learn. Here is our schedule for the next module: **Module Two focusing on *Leadership and the Community***  
*Dec 12*--LA102 *Leadership in UU History*--Led by **Tracy Blender**  
*Jan 9*--LA202 *Healthy Leadership for Healthy Congregations*--Led by **Tracy Blender**  
*Jan 23*--LA302 *Understanding the church as a system*--led by **Kathy Rickey**

Our next workshop will focus on Unitarian Universalist Faith and Leadership within our movement. The workshop will:

- Increase your knowledge of Unitarian Universalist history, tradition, and current practice.
- Help you explore and articulate your own faith.
- Examine lay leadership from a Unitarian Universalist perspective.

Class size is limited to 12 so please sign up in the PUC Office or at [ARE@pacificunitarian.org](mailto:ARE@pacificunitarian.org). Priority will be given to those wishing to achieve Certification in the program. Please advise if you are seeking a Certificate of Completion.

—Kathy Rickey

## HOPE

### 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?

### 12/15: *Blues Christmas Service* Rev. Teri and Music Director Severin Behnen lead this very special Service for those who feel blue at this time of year.

### 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:

**Bob Shull** is recovering in Torrance Memorial Med. Ctr. after breaking his pelvis in a fall.

\*\*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*

## Meditation Circle Starts @ PUC -- 8 PM Sunday Nights &/Or 10 AM Tuesday Mornings -- Beginning Dec.

11



"Come and join in the Tibetan Tonglen Meditation Circle--practice of the Bodhisattvas. Together we will breathe peace, love, and compassion into the frenetic world -- as well as into our own lives. At your convenience, either **Sunday nights at 8 PM &/or Tuesday at 10 AM** - we will be honored by your presence."

—Randy Goff

## Format Changes Coming to Sunday Morning Forums

In keeping with our mission to provide *Pathways to Meaning* for all PUC members and friends, ARE will be offering some additional opportunities for PUC members and friends to enhance their Sunday morning experience. Beginning in January, ARE will offer 5 different Sunday morning forum opportunities. The schedule will be as follows for the 2012 Church year:

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: A UU Exploration of Our Monthly Theme**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday—A Humanist Perspective**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday—Spirituality and UU**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday—12 Months to a Compassionate Community: A reflection on *The 12 Steps to a Compassionate Life***

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday—Choices in a Jar—Delightful Dilemmas (4/29/12, 7/29/12, 9/30/12 & 12/30/12)**

**\*\*NOTE: January 2012 only** --1st Sunday Forum will be 1/8, 2nd Sunday Forum will be 1/15, 3rd Sunday Forum will be 1/22 and 4th Sunday Forum will be 1/29 There will be no January 5th Sunday Forum.

For a detailed description of these forums please visit the [Adult RE section](#) of the PUC website.

—Kathy Rickey

## Permaculture Coming to PUC

Amazing how social this dialogue with place can be, not a dry discussion of food, waste, water, energy and shelter. Can we go toward nutritious PUC-grown food? . . . Beginning with a Children's Garden? Dorian, Nancy and I are totally sparked. In September Dr. Roley walked PUC with Dorian. We'll share more about his observations and questions in our next article. And don't miss *A Dialogue with Dr. Bill Roley* after Church on Sunday, **January 8**.

OUR STORY Last spring Ray and I attended a state-wide Permaculture Convergence held in a Malibu canyon; we camped by a stream with other campers (and a goat)...

I found Dr. Bill Roley of the Permaculture Institute of Southern California at the Convergence. His courses at universities and colleges link the social and environmental sciences into an integrated pattern. I pleaded, "I wanna convert our yard on permaculture principles, No more landscape plantings and lawn monoculture, but a food forest!" [Click here for the rest of the story, or tune in to next week's View from PUC for more!](#)

—Carolyn Waters

... Church ...  
Sun., P

Singles-Family Brunch, 4th Sun.,  
12:30 PM, Offsite

Monthly Town Hall Mtg, 3rd Sun.,  
H

### **Mondays**

Tai Chi (Pekich), Each Monday,  
9:30 AM, H

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. 3-5 PM, O  
[21323 Hawthorne Blvd. Torrance](#)

[Note earlier time]

Choir Practice: Wed., 7 PM, H

### **Thursdays**

Tai Chi (Beck), Each Thurs., 10  
AM, H

Seniors Pow Wow to Share How,  
3rd Thurs., 11 AM, L

Environmental Priorities Mtg, 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  
Fri., 1-3 PM, V

GBLTQ 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 Weeknd At a Glance**

Thursday, December 8, 2011

## Welcome Our Newest New Members...



Pat Marks  
47 Sycamore Ln  
Rolling Hills Estates CA 90274  
[patricia.denton@hotmail.com](mailto:patricia.denton@hotmail.com)

Joined December 4, 2011

### New Member Bio



Janet Steinberg recently joined PUC. She started visiting PUC in June, after hearing about Unitarian Universalism from her brother who attends a UU church in Fresno.

Janet says she has found a truly welcoming and spiritual community, and admires the many ways that PUC serves the greater community. She is currently coordinating the SinglesSomething group, and she is looking forward to the Meditation group that starts this month.

Born in the San Francisco Bay area, she grew up in Torrance and currently lives in San Pedro. Janet has worked all her adult life as a speech pathologist, helping children and adults. She recently left a full-time position and now works with private patients and through a registry at schools and hospitals. Janet is an avid outdoorswoman

and environmentalist who enjoys hiking, kayaking, and exploring nature. She also enjoys all kinds of music and art.

—Vivien Hao

### Birthdays of UU & U



The calendar's last month, December, is a month known for Christmas and several holidays. HumanLight, a [Humanist holiday](#) is celebrated on Dec. 23. Like [Kwanzaa](#), HumanLight is a modern invention, created to provide a Humanist celebration near Christmas and the Western Hemisphere's [winter solstice. secular](#), as opposed to [religious](#). The date makes HumanLight part of the [December holiday season](#) without detracting from [other days](#) noted by many Humanists.

HumanLight began with a single event in [Verona, NJ](#) just 10 years ago. And the holly has become a symbol of December's holidays.

PUC's December birthday people are:

- 12/3--Ana Ramsey
- 12/5--Wilbur Nussbaum
- 12/6--Kim Crawford
- 12/10--Rachel Bruhnke, Nathan Pobre
- 12/11--Lori Geittmann, Mack Monnier, Lois Pereira
- 12/13--Erika Sweet
- 12/16--Jill McKenzie
- 12/18--Linda Ding, Gloria Jacobs
- 12/19--Donna Jean Ryan
- 12/23--Jane Dietrich
- 12/25--Frank Jandl
- 12/27--Ann Bailey, Jeff Ordway
- 12/29--Doris Peñalosa

Remember all these personal holidays which are celebrated by part of PUC's extended family. For *auld lang syne* as well.

Thursday, December 8, 2011  
8:30 AM Aerobics - H  
10 AM Tai Chi / Beck - H  
7 PM Finance Committee - L  
7 PM Men's Ministry - V  
8 PM Environmental Coffee Clatch  
- Catalina Coffee Co. Redondo  
Bch

### Friday, December 9, 2011

10 AM Watercolor Wkshp - H  
1 PM Friday Afternoon SGM - V  
2 PM Social Justice Committee - L  
7 PM GLBTQ Movie Night - L

### Saturday, December 10, 2011

10 AM French Conversation Grp - V  
[2nd & 4th Saturdays]  
7 PM Dinners with UU's - O  
**[Cancelled this month - Next Dinner w/UU's will be Sat., Feb. 11]**

### Sunday, December 11, 2011

9 AM 7 Principles & 12 Steps Grp - CR2  
9:30 AM Humanist Forum - L  
10:30 AM Sunday Services-H  
11:45 AM Kids' Choir Rehearsal - CR1  
12 PM Coming of Age Mentor Info Mtg - V  
12:15 PM Green Sanctuary AND Social Justice Mtg - L  
7 PM Great Books Discussion Grp - L  
8 PM [Meditation](#) w/ Randy Goff - H  
Goff - H  
7 PM Addictions & Recovery Ministry - L



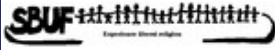
Hi friends! *Our grandkids are coming for Xmas (yippee!), and we need to borrow a bunch of baby equipment.* We'd like to turn that need into a mini-fundraiser for PUC. [See more here!](#)

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

Contact the PUC Office for Member Section login details.

—Tom Rische, Birthday Compiler

## *Second Sunday Hospitality*



The latest South Bay Unitarian Fellowship Newsletter is available at

<http://sbuf.org/newsletters/2011/newsletter1112.htm>



Volunteer  
Opportunities

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.*

**Coffee Hour Host:**  
PUC's Social Justice Team

**Ushers:** Raychel Lydon & Alana Garrigues

**Welcome Table:** Chip Morgan

**Greeters:** Louise Allison & Jean Tordella

### **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)

