



Pacific Unitarian Church

A Unitarian Universalist Community

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

The View



December 15, 2011

Hi,

...and THE VIEW from PUC is printed on blue paper too. Inside you'll find out what the end of 2011 and the start of 2012 holds for us here @ PUC...RREEEAADDD AAALL ABOOOOUUTT IT!

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



Music Notes

From the Music Department:

Join us *TONIGHT*, Thursday, **December 15** at 7 PM for our *Blues Christmas Service* featuring Gospel singer Linda Alvarez. Along with songs of loss and sadness, she'll also be bringing us hope and comfort – like no one else can. The Service/concert will be a blend of music, readings, and ritual. Music will also play a central role in our candlelight Christmas Eve Service where we'll all get a chance to sing our favorite carols.

Start practicing for the Black and White Concert coming up Saturday, **February 18!**

As always I encourage you to try the Choir. I'm quite sure it's a scientific fact that people who regularly sing on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings are among the happiest and healthiest on Earth. And again, you can make a short-term commitment or several commitments; you need not join for the rest of your life. See you Sunday morning!

—Severin

Dr. Severin Behnen, Music Director
Music@pacificunitarian.org

TONIGHT!! A Blues Christmas Service



Please join us at PUC tonight, Thursday, **December 15** at 7 PM for a Service filled with Blues music performed by **Dr. Severin Behnen** (you know how amazing he is), **Linda Alvarez** (who has sung at PUC several times—the last was with the choir a few

Sundays ago—who!), and **Rev. Teri Masters** (who will attempt to keep up on at least one song).

This Sunday

9:30 AM: Spirituality Forum

10:30 AM Service
**Lighting Our Way to
Something More**
Rev. John Morehouse

11:30 AM: Coffee Hour

11:45 AM Monthly Town Hall Meeting
PUC's **Strategic Planning Team** will present an update on their progress followed by a Q&A session.

12:15 PM The 4th Sunday Singles-Family will meet on the **THIRD Sunday, December 18**, at at Lisa's Bon Appetit, 3511 PCH, Torrance. Come join Betty Saunders, Jan Avent, Jerry Parker and Joyce Block-Miller and celebrate the holidays!

*Sunday's Flowers are from **Lisa Edmondson**, "In tribute to my wonderful parents, **John &***

***Beryl Kennedy**, whose birthdays were December 21 & January 31."*

Photos of their recent travels by **Noel Hammond & Marvel Burke** bedeck PUC's Art Wall

“Feeling *blue*” is expressed in songs whose verses lament injustice or express longing for a better life or lost loves, jobs, and money. Are you feeling a bit blue this holiday season? Maybe you feel depressed or melancholy or just not connected to the “Holly Jolly” sort of Christmas that you feel is expected of you. These are the times the blues are made for.

Come to the Hall tonight to be restored and refreshed by the music of the blues. There will also be readings, an opportunity to share joys and sorrows, and the warmth of community. Refreshments will follow the Service.

—Rev. Teri

The Climate Crisis Public Forum @ PUC Jan. 21

Even though extreme weather events are occurring throughout the world with greater frequency and with greater intensity due to global warming, the majority of Americans polled lately do not view it as a major problem that requires action. Statistics put out by the U. S. Department of Energy stated that in 2010 the number of tons of carbon dioxide pumped into the atmosphere increased 6% above previous levels. The AP headline called it the biggest jump ever seen in global warming gases; and yet this rapid and terrifying acceleration of global warming did not result in an effective international agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It seems that we are being led to collective self-annihilation as we allow the planet to heat past the point where we can deal with it.

Because members of the Environmental Priorities Network want to preserve a world that can sustain human life, they are presenting a public forum to alert local residents about the harm that is being done to people around the world and to future generations by our lack of action on global climate change. The Climate Crisis Forum will take place from 10 AM -1 PM, Saturday, **January 21 @ PUC.**

From 10 -11 AM, people can visit tables with information about local environmental groups and enjoy the light refreshments and drinks that will be provided.

At 11 AM, Nick Karno will speak about the increasing urgency of taking action on global climate change. Mr Karno is a member of the Climate Reality Team that has trained with Al Gore to speak about what must be done to bring the earth’s climate system back into balance. He is a Deputy L.A. City Attorney working in the Environmental Justice Unit.

Admission to this important event is free, but you are urged to offer a \$5 donation if you can. For more information contact **Lillian Light** - 310-545-1384 or at llight@verizon.net. Co-sponsored by PUC’s Social Justice Committee.

—Lillian Light


Format Changes Coming to Sunday Morning Forums

Beginning in January, ARE will offer 5 different Sunday morning forum opportunities. The schedule will be as follows for the 2012 Church year:

- 1st Sunday: A UU Exploration of Our Monthly Theme
- 2nd Sunday—A Humanist Perspective
- 3rd Sunday—Spirituality and UU

through **Sunday, January 1.**



 **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:
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. *Sunday's Split Plate Collection will benefit Harbor Interfaith Services.*

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!!!

January's Monthly Theme:
THEOLOGY

1/1: Promise Keeping

Rev. John begins the New Year with a fresh look at the promises that are worth keeping.



PASTORAL CARE
NEWS:

Bob Shull is home healing from a cracked pelvis. The situation at Pat

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

If you were unable to view Karen Armstrong's UU General Assembly speech at PUC, 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. For information about the Charter for Compassion, please visit www.charterforcompassion.org.

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

**NOTE: January 2012 only --Sunday Forums will be on the 2nd - 5th Sundays. For a detailed description of these forums please visit the [Adult RE section](#) of the PUC website.

—Kathy Rickey

Meditation Circle @ PUC -- 8 PM Sunday Nights &/Or 10 AM Tuesday Mornings -- Next Meetings: Dec. 18, Then Jan. 10 After a Holiday Break

"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 **8 PM Sunday nights &/or 10 AM Tuesday** - we will be honored by your presence. [We'll take a break after Dec. 18, then resume after the holiday on Jan. 10.]"

—Randy Goff

Permaculture Coming to PUC -- Pt. 2

Continued from last week's View..."Friends **Dorian** and **Nancy** of PUC Green Sanctuary, our Environmental Covenant Group, and Carolyn of Transition South Bay LA joined in the planning. **Ray** and I seeded Dr. Roley's design consult work with \$800. He observed our property with us many times (traveling from Laguna Beach), tested our soil, took apart our worm bin, studied the drainage, the exposure, and we shared ideas with our meals. He sent educational materials and tentative plans. I found that Bill is profoundly not a landscaper; this permaculture design was a dialogue and an education in food, waste, water, energy and shelter...." [Click here for the rest of the story, or tune in to next week's View from PUC for more!](#)

And don't miss *A Dialogue with Dr. Bill Roley* after Church on Sunday, **January 8**.

—Carolyn Waters

Welcome Our Newest New Member...



New Member Bio

Pat Marks

Pat Marks sought out PUC after "trying on" other faiths, including Methodism and Catholicism. She says she has found a spiritual home, where she can search for meaning and "be found," as Rev. John put it in a recent sermon. A native of Iowa, she moved to the L.A. area to teach high school

and Bob's is very difficult. They could use some meals. Anyone who is willing, please call Pat or call or email me.

Barbara Love is still at home with mononucleosis. She has been mostly housebound since February. Please take a moment to send her a card or give her a call.

Betty Saunders's son Chris has terrible health problems that keep him going in and out of the hospital. He has been in the hospital 3 (4?) times this month and is in constant pain. Please keep Chris and Betty in your thoughts and prayers.

Joani Thompson is home following surgery. Calls and cards would be great.

**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

pastoralcare@pacifunitarian.org

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

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

English more than 35 years ago. After teaching for just one year, she switched careers to become a speech pathologist, and later a psychotherapist. Now retired, Pat worked in Orange County for three decades and now resides in Rolling Hills Estates.

She has a married daughter in Torrance and two grandchildren. Pat enjoys traveling, mostly in Europe, and plans a trip to Greece and Turkey soon. She is an avid reader, and especially enjoys catching up on fiction and classics she missed earlier.

—Vivien Hao

LAST CHANCE FOR UUSC HOLIDAY CARDS!



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

—Sandy McNeil, UUSC Local Rep.

PUC's Recycling Center Makes Dollars & Sense!!



Don't forget to bring your *used up ink & toner cartridges* for recycling (and cash for PUC); *used batteries, light bulbs, and small electronic devices* for safe disposal and recycling; and *old eyeglasses* for re-use in Latin America to PUC's recycling center – located just outside the Kitchen door. *Please bring your expired prescription & non-prescription meds to the*

PUC Office for safe disposal.

[You can take Larger Electronics (TV's, computers, printers, stereos, & small appliances) and Hazardous Materials (Paint, Pesticides, Household Chemicals, etc.) to:

L.A. County S.A.F.E. Center [1400 N. Gaffey St., San Pedro, CA 90731](#)

Saturdays & Sundays, 9 AM - 3 PM



UUncle Sam Wants You (to Bring Flowers...)

Is it Your Turn to Bring Flowers on Sunday Morning?!?!

All of 2012 is currently available!

Please sign up on the Flower Calendar (inside the PUC Office door) or contact the [PUC Office](#) to reserve

it!



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)

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

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 Week At a Glance

Thursday, December 15, 2011

7 PM Blues Christmas Svce - H

7 PM Men's Ministry - V

7 PM Facilities Cmte Mtg - L

7 PM Finance Cmte Mtg - CR1

Friday, December 16, 2011

10 AM Watercolor Wkshp - H

7:30 PM Temple Emet Services - H

Saturday, December 17, 2011

9 AM Strategic Planning Committee - O [Bosler]

Sunday, December 18, 2011

9:30 AM Spirituality Forum - L

9:40 AM Choir Warmup - H

10:30 AM Sunday Services-H

11:45 AM Intro to UU/PUC - L

11:45 AM Monthly Town Hall Mtg -

H
11:45 AM Kids' Choir Rehearsal - CR1
3 PM [SB Chamber Music Society](#) - H [New Hollywood String Quartet]
6:30 PM Books In Our Lives
Covenant Group - L
8 PM Meditation w/ Randy Goff - H

Monday, December 19, 2011

9:30 AM Tai Chi [Pekich] - H
11 AM Reading & Responding
Women's Book Club - L

Tuesday, December 20, 2011


8:30 AM Aerobics - H

10 AM Meditation w/ Randy Goff - Holiday Hiatus/Resumes 1/10
2:30 PM Practicing UU Cvnnt Grp - L
7 PM Board Meeting - L

Wednesday, December 21, 2011

11 AM Women's Fed Mtg - O
1 PM Staff Meeting - L
6 PM LPA Meeting - O
7 PM Choir Practice - H



 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.

Community Events

[Hallelujah Chorus Sing-along & Christmas concert @ Warner Grand THIS Saturday, Dec. 17](#)

[Click here to view info on the following Community Events:](#)

Third Sunday Hospitality

Coffee Hour Host: Frances
Morehouse

Ushers: Vivien Hao &
Carrie Pobre

Welcome Table: Joyce Block-
Miller

Greeters: Bill Karg &
Joani Thompson

