



# Pacific Unitarian Church

A Unitarian Universalist Community

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

## The View



January 19, 2012

Deadline: Each Wednesday at noon

Hi,

...*THE VIEW FROM PUC* is a bit more tactical in it's outlook, but do plann to attend the Congregational Meeting this Sunday where we'll vote on whether or not to move forward on our Strategic Planning Team's 'Managed Growth' proposal. That and much more in this week's missive...RREEAADD AAALL ABOOOOUUUTT 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:

Thanks to the choir and Gospel singer Linda Alvarez for providing spirited music for last Sunday's dynamite Martin Luther King, Jr. Service. We are practicing our music for February to celebrate Valentine's Day and Black History month.

**SAVE THE DATE:** PUC's Annual **Black & White** Concert is set for Saturday, **February 18!** Tickets will be sold every Sunday on the Patio and will be available in the PUC Office during the week - \$20 for adults -- children free. Remember to bring Black and White (THINK CHOCOLATE) bite-sized deserts (nothing requiring spoons or forks) to the concert. It's going to be a great show with lots of your favorite PUC musicians and a few surprises!

—Severin

**Dr. Severin Behnen, Music Director**  
[Music@pacificunitarian.org](mailto:Music@pacificunitarian.org)

#### **Black and White Tradition Continues at Pacific Unitarian Church**

The year was 1993 and, **Jeanne Fuller**, the Music Director at Pacific Unitarian Church, realized that the old piano that had served the church faithfully for many years was no longer up to the task.

Several fundraisers later, led by **Helen Grossman, Robin and Jim Paterson, Rocco Lardiere**, and others, about \$15,000 was raised that was used to purchase a beautiful Yamaha C7 (7'6") grand piano from Fields Piano Store in

### This Sunday

9 AM: 7 Principles & 12 Steps Group

9:30 AM: (3<sup>rd</sup>) Sunday Forum:  
**Spirituality and UU**  
w/ **Dee Masters**

(Forums are 1 week behind in January)

10:30 AM Service  
**Lucky to Be Here In the First Place**

**January Guest Minister,**  
**Rev. Tom Owen-Towle**

11:30 AM: Coffee Hour

**11:45 Congregational Meeting to discuss and vote upon (Yes or No) The following Strategic Planning Resolution:**

"PUC should adopt a strategy of managed growth. The Strategic Planning Committee, under the direction of the Board of Trustees, is charged with addressing the issues identified in the Strategic Planning Report's Decision Tree relevant to this choice and with

developing a managed growth plan for approval by the Congregation."

If you can't stay for the meeting, absentee ballots for this vote will be available in the PUC Office on Sunday morning.

Yamaha CF (7 1/2) grand piano from Fields Piano Store in Orange County.

To celebrate the new acquisition, the first Black and White concert was held on November 14, 1994, where talented musician from the PUC community were invited to play and delight the audience. The concert was also used as a fundraiser to help support the Music Ministry.

Over the years, the new piano has served the Church and community extremely well. The South Bay Chamber Music Society regularly uses the piano in their free concerts offered at PUC. In addition, many local piano teachers use the piano for their student recitals.

Join us for Black & White 2012 on **February 18!**

## SHIFT HAPPENS! Be a Part of It THIS Saturday @ the UU Church of Long Beach!!

January 21, 2012 — 10 am – 2:30 pm

UU Church of Long Beach

[5450 Atherton St](#)

[Long Beach, CA 90815](#)

Join other UU's from all over Southern California for a story-based Anti-Oppression workshop examining our frameworks and turning points in our lives, with a goal of co-creating a positive, more diverse, and more just future for ourselves and others.

Led by the Rev. David Miller, Minister - UU Fellowship of San Dieguito, CA

Bring your own sack lunch -- beverages will be supplied

**Cost is just \$35 per congregation -- as many people as possible can benefit**

Please contact PUC's Social Justice Committee

[SocialJustice@pacifunitarian.org](mailto:SocialJustice@pacifunitarian.org) or Rev. Tera Little [teral@att.net](mailto:teral@att.net) if you'd like to attend.

## Have We Become Complacent About the Climate Change Crisis? Here's your chance to get updated:

The *Climate Crisis Forum* will take place at PUC from 10 AM to 1 PM **THIS Saturday, January 21, 2012.**

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

At 11 AM, Nick Karno will speak about the increasing urgency of taking action on global climate change. Mr. Karno is an LA Deputy City Attorney working in the Environmental Justice Unit.

Admission is free, but you are urged to offer a \$5 donation if you can.

For more information contact [Lillian Light](#) at 310-545-1384.

*Sponsored by Environmental Priorities Network - EPN*

*Co-sponsored by the Pacific Unitarian Church Social Justice Committee and the South Coast Interfaith Council*

**Calling all PUC Members & Friends...Are youUU**

**DOING THEOLOGY TOGETHER!**

**@ PUC Saturday, Jan. 28**

As Unitarian Universalists we are all card-carrying theologians.

***Nobody*** is bringing Sunday's flowers unless you call Craig Block 323.356.7452 and offer to bring them --

*The Flower Calendar is open for the rest of the year too! Come on by or contact the [PUC Office](#) to pick YOUR Sunday(s).*

Photos by **Gary Hart** titivate  
PUC's Art Wall through  
**Sunday, February 12.**



### PASTORAL CARE NEWS:

Longtime PUC member **Jane Dietrich** passed away quietly last Friday, January 13 at age 97, after a long full life. A Celebration of Life for Jane will be held 2 PM, Thursday, January 25 at PUC.



### **1/28, 9 AM DOING THEOLOGY TOGETHER!**

All PUC Members & Friends are encouraged to explore the contemporary theological landscape together with Rev. Tom Owen-Towle. ([See article](#))



**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 **Saturday, February 18!** Tickets go on sale Sunday on the Patio. The suggested donation is \$20 for adults. Children are free.



**3/17, 5 PM PUC's Anniversary Party and Annual Silent (and not so silent) Talent & Service Auction**

This lucrative (almost \$11,000 last year) fundraiser for our Church also provides ongoing social and service activities throughout the year. And the party is wonderfully fun!

.. We need offerings of parties,

It's time to take this joyous duty seriously! Join our *January Guest Minister Tom Owen-Towle* for an overview of our contemporary theological landscape, after which we will sample several themes such as sabbath; God; suffering; love; joy; self-care; and death, in dyads and as a group.

Copies of Owen-Towle's book *Theology Ablaze* (which explores 29 such topics) will be available for purchase.

Saturday, **January 28, 2012** from 9 AM -3 PM in the Hall. *Please sign up in the PUC Office in person, over the phone or [via email](#).*

## Meet Rev. Tom Owen-Towle, Our January Guest



**Minister** The Rev. Dr. Tom Owen-Towle has just completed 44 years of settled ministry and is now giving sermons and conducting workshops across the land on the themes of his two dozen books, the latest being *Theology Ablaze* which was the theme of the **January 8 Service** and is the core of his day-long workshop on

Saturday **January 28**.

Tom and his life-partner, Carolyn Sheets Owen-Towle, are Ministers Emeriti of First UU Church of San Diego and the active parents of 4 children and 6 grandchildren. Tom is a guitar player, Little League coach, and budding magician. His books will be available each Sunday for purchase.

## You're Invited to 2012 UUA Justice General

**Assembly** [CLICK HERE for an invitation to Phoenix](#) for the **2012 Justice General Assembly, June 20-24**. There will be something for everyone at this Justice GA!

## Leadership Academy Continues Monday Nights @

### PUC LA302: Understanding Systems in Your Congregation

**Jan. 23 @ 7pm**

This workshop introduces the idea of system thinking. Participants practice identifying relational and emotional patterns within the congregation as they examine congregational challenges. Looking at their own congregation's issues from a system perspective, participants will apply system thinking to consider healthy approaches to real life challenges. This course is also the 2nd in the Vision Module.

\*The Leadership Academy is a drop-in, interactive workshop style learning experience. There are no prerequisite courses. class is limited to 12. Please sign up in the PUC Office or email [ARE@pacifcunitarian.org](mailto:ARE@pacifcunitarian.org)

## 12 Months to a Compassionate Community Study

Please make a note that the study of Karen Armstrong's *12 Steps to a Compassionate Life* starts Sunday, **January 29**, and this forum will begin at 9:00 AM. If you are reading the book and interested in discussing your thoughts, this is the place to do it. Our discussions will be following the suggested format from the Charter for Compassion reading Group format.

If there is sufficient interest, I will add an evening forum during the week. If you are reading the book and wish to participate in an

dinners, lunches, brunches (in your home or in a restaurant), excursions, lessons, services, gift certificates, or whatever you can think of.

**AND** we need volunteers at all stages -- before, during, & after the event on **March 17**. Contact Barbara Paulsen, [Pam Harris](#), or [Craig in the PUC Office](#) for your ideas, suggestions, more info, your offerings, and especially, your help!!

—Barbara Paulsen

## Upcoming Services

### January's Monthly Theme: **THEOLOGY**

**1/22: Lucky to Be Here In the First Place**

**January Guest Minister, Rev. Tom Owen-Towle** will explore what he considers to be the primary virtue in the UU lexicon, without which the other values of our religion don't even get started.

**1/29: To Forgive Or Not to Forgive**

**January Guest Minister, Rev. Tom Owen-Towle** "I have grown to the conviction that forgiveness is not an 'ought' but an 'opportunity' in the living of our personal and public lives. Let me explain what I mean."

### February's Monthly Theme: **FAITH**

**2/5: The Economics of Love**

**Rev. John** returns to PUC's free pulpit to explore how the recession has everything to do with love.

**2/12: Occupy Your Heart**

**Rev. John** will share with us how social change is closer than you think.

**2/19: It Matters Most What We Love**

**Guest Speaker, Rev. Sean Parker Dennison**

For many years, I resisted talking about love. It seemed like such a cliché to say that Unitarian

evening discussion group, please email your interest to [ARE@pacifcunitarian.org](mailto:ARE@pacifcunitarian.org)

—Kathy Rickey

## EARN \$\$ FOR PUC BY SHOPPING!!

Are you taking advantage of this easy way to earn money for PUC??

\$25 & \$50 Sprouts cards and \$50 Whole Foods cards available to purchase (cash or check) on Sundays. See a Stewardship Committee member – Pam Harris, Ben Cowan, Clint Patterson, Drew Davis, Janet Kissner, or Lori Geittmann. During the week, available through Craig Block in the PUC Office. 5% goes to PUC!

**Ralphs & Vons Shoppers**- contribute to PUC by registering your grocery cards with PUC through their community programs.

Go online to the PUC Home Page, click on “[Support PUC](#)”, scroll down the page to “Earn \$\$ for PUC by Shopping” and you’ll find links and info for [Ralphs](#) and [Vons](#) sign up. **Vons is part of the “eScrip” Program.** Registering your debit/credit cards and shopping/dining at participating stores/restaurants generates additional money for PUC.

We currently have 13 households registered with **Ralphs’ Community Contribution Program**. These folks generated \$147.80 for PUC by shopping and using their Ralphs cards from September - November 2011! If you are a Ralphs shopper, please join them!! Contact anyone on the Stewardship Committee for more information.

—Pam Harris, Stewardship Chair



## Need A Room For The School Semester? (Thru June)

- \*Great San Pedro location
  - \*Townhome with Ocean & Port views
  - \*\$750 including utilities
  - \*Perfect quiet space for a college student
  - \*Large, bright, comfy bedroom w/ private bath
  - \*Plenty of closet and storage space, washer/dryer
  - \*Quick freeway access & close to area colleges and hospitals
  - \*30 minutes from LAX -- 15 minute walk to beach
- (Please, no smoking or pets, i have two nice cats!)
- CALL Janet at 310-732-6856  
[janet\\_steinberg@yahoo.com](mailto:janet_steinberg@yahoo.com)

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

Contact the PUC Office for Member Section login details.

## *Fouth Sunday Hospitality*

**Coffee Hour Host:**YRUU Teen Group

Universalists believe in Love. But as my ministry continued, I became convinced that Love is and should be at the center of our faith tradition. Not some sappy, sentimental feeling, but a strong and demanding Love that calls us to be our best selves and commit ourselves to building a world of justice.

## *Recurring Events*

### **Sundays**

*Sunday Morning Forums, 9:30 AM, L*

(Forums are 1 week later in January)

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

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday—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, 7/29, 9/30 & 12/30)*

*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*

*Great Books Discussion Group, 2nd Sun., L*

### **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**

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

[Note earlier time]

**Ushers:**YRUU Teen Group

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

**Greeters:** YRUU Teen Group

*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*

