

* Please send all VIEW submissions to Newsletter@pacificunitarian.org by Wednesday Noon.

* Please send requests for a Sunday announcement to: Gary Hart garylhart@gmail.com



Pacific Unitarian Church
A Unitarian Universalist Community

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

The View



March 20, 2014

Deadline: Each Wednesday at noon

Hi,

... 'cause *THE VIEW* from PUC ALWAYS has A PLACE AT THE TABLE open for YoUU...join us THIS Sunday for our Pledge Drive Kickoff Breakfast in the Service. (I hope I'm at YoUUr table!!) All your PUC news is all right here for you -- REEEEAAADD AAAALLL AAAABBBBOOUUUT IT.

Calling All Pledges!

Celebration Sunday is **THIS Sunday, March 23!** Help us make this year a record-setting success by pledging today!

[Pledge on the PUC website](#) or bring/send in your card from the back of the Pledge Brochure. There's a box located at the back of the Hall on Sunday, and in the Office at other times.

THANK YOU to the 15 individuals & families who've already turned in Pledge Cards totalling: \$50,150!

Catalogs for the **April 6 PUC Auction** will be available for pickup on the Patio **Sundays, 3/23 & 30**. Git yer plannin' started early & save a stamp - visit the Auction Table on the Patio to pick yours up, otherwise it'll be mailed on Monday 3/31! And there's STILL time to get your offerings in for the Addendum too!!!



A Message from your Board President:

Something's Been On My Mind...or is it my Brain?

I have some training in Neuroscience, and it is an area that I follow rather closely. When I was doing it, we hacked the brains of mice and looked at bits of tissue with electron microscopes. Sort of like taking a fine old clock apart and trying to explain how it works by looking at the smallest gear in isolation. Today Neuroscientists can use real-time imaging of all sorts to see what areas of the brain are active when we think of Elvis, Jesus, our mother, or even pepperoni pizza. We can see what brain parts (technical term) light up (another technical term) when we

March's Monthly Theme: *SURRENDER*

This Sunday

March 23

10:30 AM Service

Invited to a Place at the Table

Rev. John Morehouse

This will be a special Service to kick off our Annual Pledge Drive. Join us at 10.30 AM for a special breakfast in the Hall followed by *Rev. John* preaching and our Stewardship Team presenting our vision for next year.

The Weekend At a Glance

Thursday, March 20, 2014

Spring Equinox

6:30 PM [PUC Choir Practice](#) - H

7 PM Family R.E. Ministry Mtg. -

O

7 PM Facilities Committee Mtg-O

Saturday, March 22, 2014

9 AM Strategic Planning - O

10 AM Financial Planning on the

Heels of the Great Recession -

CR1

10 AM French Conversation Grp

- V [2nd & 4th Saturdays]

11:30 AM Marian Jones Circle of

Remembrance - L

6 PM Buddy Mixer - O

are sad, happy, lonely, angry, flirtatious, or in deep REM sleep.

So, can we see human nature? Can we see ourselves? Can we see the Mind? Are we just a mélange of the electro-chemical processes going on in our heads, or does the mind exist outside of the brain – or even totally separate from it?

Some say that the mind is the sum of the brain's parts. That is, the mind **is** the action of our brain gathering information, storing the content, organizing it in several ways, analyzing and partitioning it, and remembering it as needed. Therefore, a brain in good working order is the same thing as a conscious mind. I used to think that way, but I'm not so sure anymore. It's why I'm a Unitarian.

The Unitarian Brain must be a special case, then. Our brains must store "god" in a different way than the Mormons do. We must have a special area, deep within our brain (or mind) where we maintain an active struggle with the unanswerable questions like: Where did we come from? What is death? What started the universe? Where did I put the coffee filters?

One of the main reasons that I am proud to be a Unitarian is that we don't just follow along in the guide book, but we bring these mind-boggling (or is it brain-boggling) questions out into the light of day and debate them.

So, what's been on my mind? The future of PUC.

We have a great thing going on here. A place where brains and minds come together and celebrate our common goals buried within our apparent differences. Many factions working together to make up PUC, with each faction doing what it does best, and all factions together making up the PUC "brain."

If we value what we have here, than we need to do more. We need to light up those parts of our PUC brain where compassion, love, understanding, and giving live. We need to think about what our future might bring, so that we can make it a reality. PUC is important to me and I'm sure it is to you. Help me keep the brain and mind alive and PUC as awesome as it has always been by responding generously in the upcoming Pledge Drive.

And as always - **Shalom, Salaam, Namaste, Amen, Blessed Be, DFTBA... and thanks for keeping the brain alight!**

—**Gary Hart**

President, PUC Board of Trustees

Religious Education Matters

Family Religious Education Ministry MARCH CALENDAR

3/23: Celebration Sunday Canvass Kick-Off. All children and youth (Pixies and older) begin in this very special service. Children will be sung out to classes a bit later today.

**Secret Pal Program week 2!

**OWL 7-9 group meets 12:30-4:30 *in Voyagers Room*

**OWL Parents group meets 12:30-3:30 in

3/30: "Regular" day in RE.

**OWL "Graduation" Day *IN* Service

**Secret Pal "Revealing" Picnic *AFTER* Service

[Curliss/Reynolds]

Sunday, March 23, 2014

10 AM Childcare - CR3
10:30 AM Sunday Service - H
10:30 AM Pledge Campaign
Kickoff Brunch - H
11:45 AM PUC YoUUth Choir
Rehearsal - H
12:15 PM "Journey to
Membership" B - CR1
12:15 PM Intern Minister
Committee - CR2
12:30 PM OWL 7-9 Parent Class
- H
12:30 PM OWL 7-9 - V
12:15 PM "Worship Arts" Class -
L
6 PM Pagan Equinox Celebration
- H

*Sunday's Flowers are "to
THANK YOU ALL who have
pledged, and will pledge,
generously!."*

—**The PUC Pledge Canvass
Committee**



Sunday, 3/30: Half a Century
Marrieds Group - 12 noon @ Fu
Yuan Low Restaurant.

**Sunday, 4/6: PUC's
Service/Silent & Live Auction**

Sunday, 4/20: The **St. Petersburg
Men's Ensemble** LIVE In Concert
@ PUC



PASTORAL CARE NEWS:

"My thanks to all for all the wonderful cards & flowers. I am at Driftwood Rehab, **4109 Emerald St., Torrance, CA 90503**, Rm #2-C. Visiting hours are afternoon & evenings until 8 PM. Please call 310-793-3000 before visiting. "

Religious Education Matters

—Rev. Tamara

AssocMinister@pacificunitarian.org



Please [CLICK HERE](#) to request to be added to the R.E. Family Facebook Group.

—Lori Geittmann

If you are in need of Pastoral Care, please contact **Reverend John:** pastoralcare@pacificunitarian.org or the [PUC Office](#).

⇔

March's Monthly Theme: **SURRENDER**

3/30: **Anybody Got a Match?**

Rev. John Morehouse

Unitarians and Universalists were once martyred for their faith. What would we be persecuted for today? What would we sacrifice our lives for? Join us as Rev. John offers a few ideas worth burning about.

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First Sunday Hospitality Special Thanks to All of **YOUU who help!**

Top Chef **Margo Meikle** - aided & abetted by sous chefs **Andy Kissner, Kim Crawford, Jen Hocutt, Chelsea Sites, & Linda Fell** - produced an outstanding Irish lunch, Leprechauns danced, and all dined.

Thank you. Your work lives on in our hearts all week long.

⇔

Ushers:

Scott Garrabrant & Joanna Hannff

Welcome Table:

2 OPEN POSITIONS

Contact [Lora Childers](#) if you'd like to give it a try...

Greeters:

Jean McDaniel & Shuja Oberoi

⇔

Recurring Events

Download the [AdUUIt Program & Religious Education Flyer](#).

Sundays

PUC's AI Fresco Auction FUUn(d)raiser Is Coming Soon: SUNDAY, APRIL 6 on the Patio!

- DONATE!

- BID!

- BRING A FRIEND!

Forgot something you wanted to offer for the Auction? There's still time to have it included in the "Addendum". Contact [Craig](#) in the PUC Office, or Barbara Paulsen, if you're able to provide/wangle:

- **MORE MEALS** -- Either home-cooked or hosted at restaurants.
- **MORE SERVICES or LESSONS** that YOU can offer yourself: i.e., Handyman Services, Computer Consulting/Tutoring, & Gardening/Landscaping by your Newsletter Editor hisself!!
- **MORE ENTERTAINMENT EVENTS** -- Tickets/Passes for Plays, Concerts, Operas, Movies, Sporting Events, Lectures, Museum Outings...the sky's the limit!!!

The **AI Fresco Auction** will be held on **SUNDAY, APRIL 6**. Tables will open for bidding at 9:30 AM and run after the Sunday Service until we close.

To help make the party a success, we also need volunteers to help out before, during, and after the auction! Please contact **Barbara Paulsen** to get involved.

JIM SCOTT IN CONCERT APRIL 5, 2014

An Evening of Music Honoring Pete Seeger

Jim Scott, legendary jazz and folk guitarist, vocalist, and composer, makes a rare Southern California concert appearance at 7 PM on **Saturday, April 5, 2014** at the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Santa Monica (UUCSM)

[1260 18th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404](#)

Jim honors his late friend Pete Seeger this evening with music filled with social justice themes which will inspire people of all ages and generations. Mr. Scott was a member of the Paul Winter Consort and has played with Tracy Chapman, 10,000 Maniacs, and Joan Baez.

Tickets are \$20.00 at [Chaliceoak.org](#); **May be pre-ordered** through Dale Osborne dale@chaliceoak.org (he'll need name and number of tickets for order confirmations); **or at the door**. (Seating is limited so ordering early is advised.)

The concert will assist Chalice Oak Foundation, a national social justice project incubator helping diverse community members start local social justice projects. [CLICK HERE for more information about Chalice Oak Foundation](#),

Celebrate the Equinox @ PUC

The Iseum of Isis Paedusis' Vernal Equinox ritual is one of Renewal, Rebirth, & Regeneration! Bring a red rose for Isis and a rubber ducky or small toy boat for the "Launching of the Ships." You will receive a "Rebirth Certificate" for attending!. Ritual starts at 6 PM SHARP THIS **Sunday, March 23.**

Retreat to the Mountains w/ PUC June 6-8

PUC's annual Camp de Benneville Pines Retreat is Friday-Sunday, **June 6 - June 8, 2014.** [Camp de Benneville Pines](#) is located in the Barton Flats area of the beautiful San Bernardino Mountains, about 90 miles east of Los Angeles. The theme for this years retreat is...SERVICE! Service: to ourselves, our church, each other, and our community. This weekend is an incredible wonderful loving UU experience! Camp sign-ups will start on Sunday **March 30, 2014** and conclude on June 1, 2014.

Whether you are new to PUC or have been here for many years, this retreat is a great opportunity to meet new people and get closer to our Unitarian Universalist beliefs. Activities will include: music, wine tasting, swimming, wilderness hiking, fishing, volleyball, basketball, lake hikes, arts and crafts, kids activities, games, campfires, and much, much more.

The cost for the entire weekend (3 nights and 2 days) including room and great food is *only \$130 for adults, \$100 for teens (13-18), and \$80 for children (2-12).* The cost is cheaper than just one night in an average hotel! If you are interested in attending, or want more information, you can stop by the sign-up table on the Patio after Church. Rooms will be filling up fast so the sooner you sign up the better.

Feel free to contact **Andy Kissner** directly at andykpuc@gmail.com or by phone or text at 213-595-2093 if you have questions, or would like to volunteer to host an activity and/or help with planning

—**Andy Kissner**, PUC Retreat Dean

PUC Buddhist Meditation Group Changes Meeting Time to 10 AM

Beginning Tuesday, **March 25** the Meditation group will be meeting from 10 -11 AM on Tuesdays, and is open to all PUC Members, Friends, and Visitors. There are plenty of seats available, but those who wish to use a cushion or pad will need to bring their own. While called a "Buddhist" meditation group, this is mainly to avoid confusion with styles used in other traditions, e.g., TM, Hindu, etc. **Brad Shreve** and **John Hocutt** are acting as peer-leaders, and while happy to share their knowledge and experience, neither is a formal teacher

If you would like to learn more about Buddhist meditation and have questions, either Brad or John would be happy to meet with you 20 – 30 minutes before the group begins.

Questions? Contact Brad: [bdshreve\(at\)outlook.com](mailto:bdshreve(at)outlook.com) OR John: [jhocutt.ChE81\(at\)GTalumni.org](mailto:jhocutt.ChE81(at)GTalumni.org).

YRUU High School Group. 10:30 AM, L

Half a Century Marrieds Group, 5th Sun., 12 noon, Fu Yuan Low Restaurant - Next Date: **Sunday, March 30**

Great Books Discussion Grp, 7 PM, 2nd Sun., L

Books in Our Lives Covenant Group, 1st & 3rd Sun., 7 PM, L

Mondays

Women's Reading & Responding Grp, 3rd Mon., 11 AM, L

[Kundalini Yoga w/ Aimee](#) - All are welcome, Mon., 5 PM, H

Environmental Covenant Group, 1st Mon., 7:15 PM, L

Soulful Sundown, 1st Mon., 7:30 PM, H

Tuesdays

Buddhist Meditation Group, weekly, 9:30 AM, V

Ways & Means Cmte, 2nd Tues., 7 PM, L

Wednesdays

[Beginning Yoga](#) w/ Debi Robinson, Wed, 11 AM

Thursdays

Women's Circle, 4th Thurs., 10 AM
Tai Chi (Beck), Thurs, 10 AM, H

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

[PUC Choir Practice](#): Thurs., 6:30 PM, H

Environmental Priorities Network Mtg, 2nd Thurs., 7:30 PM, L

Fridays

GBLTQ Movie, 2nd Fri., Even # months, 7 PM, L

Saturdays

French Conversation Grp, 2nd & 4th Sat., 10 AM, V

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Love Beyond Belief!

Contact Us:

Gay Pride is Coming and We Need a Trailer!

Last year PUC showed that we Stand on the Side of Love with the GBLTQ community by participating in the Long Beach Pride Parade with a fun-filled marching unit. *This year we want to go BIG and enter a float in the parade.* We have lots of great ideas but we're going to need a truck bed to make it happen. If you own, or have access to a flatbed truck or large trailer, please contact me so that I may submit our application. Please contact Brad Shreve at 310-344-8450 or via email at bdshreve@outlook.com

Continuous Upgrades to Our Campus Continue

This week's update: **Mike Mariani** our Facilities Manager has been working very hard alongside: El Presidente, Mr. **Gary Hart**, to build new doors to the dumpster; & **John Einhorn, Gary Hart, & Bruce Lewis** to repave our PARKING LOT! He's also engineered the transplantation of large jade plants in preparation for a new sidewalk from street steps to campus.

And while the campus is "under construction" this week, we have rented a sander/grinder to buff up the concrete sidewalk in the Breezeway and on the east side of the Classrooms. Stay tuned. We have a team that's on fire to make this a better place for us all. Thank you all who give your time, talent, treasure to Pacific Unitarian Church.

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Sunday Service: 10:30 AM
Office Hrs: Sunday: 9 AM - 3 PM,
Mon. - Thurs: 11 PM - 5 PM
[Click here for Directions](#)

