

# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Kern County

*Love is the doctrine of this church, The quest of truth is its sacrament, and service is its prayer. To dwell together in peace, To seek knowledge in freedom, To serve human kind, to the end that all souls shall grow into harmony with the Divine - Thus do we covenant with each other.*



## DEATH

This is the month when the spirits drift through the night and into your dreams. It's the great fog of the unknown. It's that long tunnel which some have told us leads to the other world, the world that will never end, the final goal in the Candy Land game.

But death is also the closing of a chapter, the relief from pain or fear or loneliness or drudgery. It's a part of life that clears the deck and makes room for new life to emerge, to have its dream, to pursue meaning, and to finally weaken and drift away ... away into the softness of that mysterious place from which it came. And it will come but not yet. Not yet!

In the meantime, haul out the pumpkins and the scarecrows and enjoy this season and all of the seasons to come because you have the gift of this wonderful life to experience and know the universe, to enjoy your loved ones and to make your contributions to this Small Blue Dot on which we reside.

Forget Death! You have life!

Irene Heath

### October 13:

#### "Death Around the World"

Death is our October theme for worship. Join our minister, Summer Albayati-Krikeche, as she looks at death and its celebrations and rituals from cultures and religions around the world. Perhaps, you may find out something new about your own cultural background! Feeling like getting into the Halloween spirit early? By all means, come to worship in costume! Perhaps, there may be candy and a prize for the best costume!

### October 27th:

#### "Reflections on Death and Dying"

We continue this month's theme with a look at death and dying within the American culture, specifically. Our minister, Summer Albayati-Krikeche, will reflect on insights learned as a hospital chaplain on the palliative care team, as well as her own experiences losing loved ones. We will, also, look at what death and dying means in a Unitarian Universalist context. Be prepared to go inward and deep.



## **A Message From Your Minister**

**"On the day I die, don't say he's gone. Death has nothing to do with going away.**

**The sun sets, and the moon sets but they're not gone.**

**Death is a coming together.**

**The human seed goes down into the ground like a bucket,  
and comes up with some unimagined beauty.**

**Your mouth closes here, and immediately opens  
with a shout of joy there."**

**--Rumi**

**Ah, death. This is the theme for the month of October. It is a time of wonder and awe for me when I must reflect on death and what it means. Having recently experienced the death of my father, this theme could not come at a more relevant time in my life.**

**Like the Rumi poem, I tend to think of death and rebirth together. Or maybe I want to believe that something will come out of the death. Not just pain for those left behind. Not just the hope of a heaven in which we will all be reunited. Not just a life in which we die and..."that's all folks!" Somehow, I long to know that my loved ones will come back to me reincarnated -- whether in another form -- but back to me because I miss them profoundly.**

**As I write this article, I cannot help but remember the many conversations I have had with my mother regarding the death of my father. Just yesterday, we remembered his image, lying there in the hospital bed. An image that will forever be imprinted in my memory.**

**He was pronounced dead before we arrived at the hospital in the middle of the night. I held his hand and cried and said my last goodbyes. But to whom or what? He was not there. That was the shell. His temple, so to speak. The husks, within mystical Judaism, that contain lights -- and that we are to gather together to create G-d. So, does this mean G-d is present in life only?**

**Ah, death. The great mystery of life. We fear it. We find blessings and relief within it. We feel guilt and sadness and experience tears and laughter as we remember the dead. As we look more closely at this theme this month, may we never forget to live every minute to its fullest. Easy to say, yet more difficult to actually do.**

**Of course, no October can go by, especially with a theme of death, without our looking at Halloween or All Hallows Eve/Samhain and various festivals of the dead throughout the world. Perhaps, one of my favorite holidays will bring comfort as I don my favorite annual costume and trick or treat with my son. We love to watch scary movies, attend Halloween parties, and even visit Disneyland to see the creative costumes of "Cast Members." Let us look toward the festivities of October with wonder and awe as we learn more about death and life, so that we can live out our call. Perhaps, this month of studying death will lead us to a rebirth of our commitment to this beautiful faith of Unitarian Universalism.**

**Namaste and may you find life within death this October,  
Summer**

**NEW WORSHIP LEADER OPPORTUNITIES**  
**AND**  
**TRAINING FOR CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE WORSHIP LEADERS**

At the UU Fellowship of Kern County we engage in shared ministry. Our minister, Summer Albayati-Krikeche, is in the pulpit two Sundays each month. On other Sundays our pulpit is filled by a guest minister, a member of the congregation, or someone from the local community. A few Sundays during the year we have intergenerational services. Every Sunday morning offers an opportunity for shared ministry through the worship leader. By their participation, worship leaders help to bring a variety of voices into our Sunday services.

We are making changes to our worship leader program and I encourage each of you to continue reading and then do a little soul searching to see if sharing in the ministry of our fellowship as a worship leader is something you would like to do.

With a greater emphasis on shared ministry being encouraged by our minister, Summer Albayati-Krikeche, the worship service committee is expanding the pool of worship leaders. We also want to make it easier for those folks who would like to add their voice to the worship service but might be intimidated by the prospect of pulling together the entire worship service.

At one end of the worship leader spectrum will be the Worship Leader 1, a person who, in shared ministry, adds their voice to the service by reading selections chosen by our minister, Summer, and provides the announcements, acknowledgements, and some of the transition elements in the service. At the other end of the spectrum will be the Worship Leader 2, a person who, on Sundays when Summer is not in the pulpit, will pull together the elements for the entire service. Worship Leader 2 also includes those worship leaders who work with guest speakers who prefer that the service be a collaborative effort with the speaker and the worship leader sharing in the selection of readings and hymns. In addition, Worship Leader 2's will need to prepare and print the Order of Service. We will have a few volunteers to assist those worship leaders who are not comfortable with this aspect of the job.

Some of our worship leaders will feel comfortable serving across the entire spectrum of Worship Leader 1 and Worship Leader 2; others will feel more comfortable serving as a Worship Leader 1. Both are needed!

**WORSHIP LEADER TRAINING will be held on Saturday, October 12 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at the Fellowship.**

Training will provide an orientation to serving as a Worship Leader, tips, and resources. I encourage all who currently serve as worship leaders and all who are interested in exploring this aspect of service to UUFKC to attend.

Please call or email me, or our minister, Summer, if you have any questions and to RSVP for the training.

Pat Berthold

cell 661-747-3769 (I don't answer while at work except in emergencies)

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Summer Albayati-Krikeche

cell 714-267-0881

[summeralbayati@gmail.com](mailto:summeralbayati@gmail.com)

**Happy Birthday to all members and friends born in the month of October:**

- Pat Berthold**
- Cydney Henderson**
- Laura Stevenson**
- Evan Stevenson**
- Anna Laven**
- Brandi Groven**
- Hayden Gretona**
- Matthew L. Sabin**

**Have a very special day from all of us at the fellowship!**

*Anyone wishing to submit an article to the Unikern, please feel free. You may have some words of inspiration, best practices for cleaning the garage, or a poem. Please send to Linda Haggerty. Thanks.*

**Fall is fast approaching. There are many memories we all hold of this time of year. What are some of your stories? I'd like to publish some in the next Unikern. Please share and submit to Linda Haggerty [LHAGGERTY@bak.rr.com](mailto:LHAGGERTY@bak.rr.com)**



## **Warm Clothing Drive for Bakersfield Homeless Center**

**Our annual warm clothing drive is coming up soon. This is your opportunity to share with the men, women and children who reside at the Bakersfield Homeless Center. Items needed: blankets, coats and jackets, sweat suits, pants, socks, hats, scarves, gloves and mittens. You have always been so generous, and we are counting on your generosity again this year. It will be much appreciated. Start collecting now!**

**Bakersfield Gay Pride 2013**  
**Saturday, October 19, 2013**  
**Festival 3-9pm 7.00 per person**  
**online presale/ \$10 at the**



**Dear UUFKC Members & Friends,**

**We've got a fundraiser coming up, and we need some volunteers!**

**We are hosting a food booth at the Bakersfield LGBTQ Pride Festival on Saturday, October 19th. We'll be serving tri-tip, hamburgers, hot dogs, etc. It's a great chance to show our support for the cause and raise some money for our congregation.**

**Call Linda Haggerty 345-1679. Please sign up as soon as possible!**

**Saturday, October 13th:**

- **11 AM to 1 PM – Pick up and transport items from Linda's to Stramler Park**
- **1 PM to 3 PM – set up at Stramler Park**
- **3 PM to 8 PM – prepare and serve food; take orders**
- **7 PM to finish – clean up**

**Please sign up for all or part of a shift – as much time as you're available, ideally. Many hands will make light work! And it should be a whole lot of fun, too!!**

**Thanks! Call or Contact me.**

**Linda Haggerty**

**[LHAGGERTY@bak.rr.com](mailto:LHAGGERTY@bak.rr.com)**



**Bakersfield Gay Pride 2013**  
 Come out and enjoy a hot dog



UUFKC Volunteer Schedule—October 6 – December 29, 2013					
DATE	Musician	HOST	SET-UP	GREETERS	FLOWERS
Oct 6	Isolde Frank	Carol Snyder	Jesse Snyder	Wilma Goodloe Lois Watson	Carol Snyder
Oct 13	Marina Oja	Cynthia Lane	Ann Williams	Elaine LeCain Red LeCain	Cynthia Lane
Oct 20	Brandi Groven	Jamie Jacks	Richard Malicdem	Mendy McMasters Chris Frank	Pam Taylor
Oct 27	Elaine LeCain	Dan Walker	Mark Hodson	Linda Haggerty Sabrina James	Heather Ponek
Nov 3	Elaine LeCain	Mark Hodson	Chet Boren	Jesse Snyder Carol Snyder	Mark Hodson