

# 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.*



## Sunday Services for September 2013

**September 1: 10:00:** “Immigration Reform” Leader: Brandi Groven  
Brandi will lead a discussion of the topic of the weekend’s events.

**September 1: 4:00** “Celebration of Immigration Reform” Speaker: Minister Summer Albayati-Krikeche

Join UUFKC and other UU's from around the state as we celebrate our welcoming of the pilgrims who walked to Bakersfield from Sacramento. This is a historical moment as we live out our faith and work toward immigration reform. We will worship and reflect and then follow that with dinner and conversation. For those who are interested, there will be training on canvassing by the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry, California (UULM-CA) and Faith In Action. Come and celebrate this faith together!

**September 8:** “Water Communion Service” Speaker: Elaine LeCain

As is traditional with this Fellowship, we conduct a Fall service dedicated to water and its meaning to us. Be prepared to share!

**September 15:** “Intergenerational Service” Leader: Andy Kendall

Our youth will conduct today’s service, a celebration of their credos and spirituality.

**September 22:** “Animal Rescue: Speakers from HALT: Helping Animals Live For Tomorrow

What can and should we do to treat justly and compassionately non-human animals? Come hear about the activities of one local organization.

**September 29:** “Forgiveness: A Pathway to Peace?” Speaker: Minister Summer Albayati-Krikeche

With all that is happening in today’s world, forgiveness is needed now more than ever. But how, exactly, do we do the act of forgiving? Is it, truly, possible to forgive? Can this one little word be so powerful that it could help to bring about a world of peace? Join Minister Summer Albayati-Krikeche as she explores this concept, the first of our monthly themes, from a Unitarian Universalist perspective.



## A Message from our Minister

Summer Albayati-Krikeche

begin a new career. You are welcoming a new year of ministry and a new minister. There are new possibilities with September.

Yet, I am reminded that it is the month for Yom Kippur in which the Jewish peoples ask for forgiveness from God and others. It is, also, the first of our monthly themes that will be explored in worship. Forgiveness. It's a difficult concept to fully grasp. Not so easy to do.

In the aforementioned poem by Fay Zwicky, a Jewish writer, she asks for forgiveness for the poet within. She apologizes for not writing and ignoring the poems that were clamoring to be written. I wonder, at this time of change, what might we forgive of ourselves so we can begin, again. What have you left undone? What part of you is clamoring to be expressed? For me, it is writing more. For me, it is sending my manuscript to a publisher, and facing possible rejection. Can I forgive myself for ignoring the muse within? Can I forgive myself for not sending the manuscript yet? Can I begin, again, and face this time of change with wonder and open arms -- open to the possibilities of transformation when I forgive myself? May your September be filled with forgiveness and new beginnings,

## Summer

### THE POET ASKS FORGIVENESS by Fay Zwicky

Dead to the world I have failed you  
Forgive me, traveller.

Thirsty, I was no fountain  
Hungry, I was not bread  
Tired, I was no pillow

Forgive my unwritten poems:  
the many I have frozen with irony  
the many I have trampled with anger  
the many I have rejected in self-defence  
the many I have ignored in fear

unaware, blind or fearful  
I ignored them.  
They clamoured everywhere  
those unwritten poems.  
They sought me out day and night  
and I turned them away.

Forgive me the colours  
they might have worn  
Forgive me their eclipsed faces  
They dared not venture from  
the unwritten lines.

Under each inert hour of my silence  
died a poem, unheeded

September is a time for change. The summer is over and school begins again -- reminding us of time and order. Some will

# Seminary & Theological Grad School Virtual Fair

September 18, 2013  
10am - 5pm Eastern

Planning to apply to Seminary or a Theological Graduate School?  
You are invited to attend the first-ever Seminary & Theological  
Grad School Virtual Fair on September 18, 2013.

The Virtual Fair will allow you to have your admissions questions answered by  
representatives from multiple graduate institutions during this live event.

- REGISTER NOW to attend the **FREE** virtual fair to learn more about Seminary and Theological Graduate School programs
- Save your valuable time by meeting school representatives in live chat sessions online
- Have your questions answered without ever leaving the comfort of your computer
- Only a One-Time Registration required to meet multiple schools

\*Option to upload your résumé prior to the event (résumé/CV upload not required to participate)

**Virtual Fair Date: September 18, 2013**  
Register at [www.Seminary.CareerEco.net](http://www.Seminary.CareerEco.net)

For more information:

Gayle Oliver-Plath | 770.980.0088 | [seminary@careereco.com](mailto:seminary@careereco.com)



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)

**Dear UUFKC Members and Friends -**

**As our new church year gets underway, my fellow board members have recruited me to get our website and Facebook page updated and then maintained on an ongoing basis. Mark Hodson is also a contact for both of these communication tools.**

**If you have suggestions or calendar items for either of these two sources, please email them to me at [jcherry@bak.rr.com](mailto:jcherry@bak.rr.com). (You can also post directly on our Facebook wall from your own FB account, if you are the leader of an event or activity.) I will do my best to get the updates posted in a timely fashion.**

**Thanks!**

**Jane Cherry**  
[jcherry@bak.rr.com](mailto:jcherry@bak.rr.com)

### **FAITH or faith or ...**

So, have you measured the amount of faith you have lately? If so, which kind of faith is important to you? Faith in the ultimately sensible decisions made by our elected officials? Faith in the ability of our school systems to adequately prepare all comers for the best they can achieve? Faith in the sincerity of your spouse? Perhaps you're thinking of RELIGIOUS FAITH. That one is harder to put your finger on isn't it? You're having to trust in something that may seem beautiful and promising but it is still something you will have no ability to prove. Faith - trust - eternity! It's all a dream but perhaps it's the best dream of all and will come true! Who can know? Faith and dreams make the struggle worth the while and the award at the end may well be the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

Click your heels together three times, take a deep breath and let the magic dust fly.

Irene Heath