



STANDING ON THE SIDE OF

LOVE

# UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF KERN COUNTY

UniKern 2014

June 2014—

## A Message from Our Minister

I had planned to write about something else, but all I can think about is that Maya Angelou has died. The great poet, writer, sage of our time -- is gone. She was one of my personal prophets. She spoke truth in words and every time she opened her mouth to speak I heard trumpets of wisdom. It was like she sparkled with diamonds within her soul and she brought them out for us to glorify in -- like a Goddess shimmering in the sunlight. And I am reminded that there are celebrations of the Goddess and fertility for some cultures coming up in June. For others, Summer Solstice is a time for ritualizing the longest day of the year with fire. Great bonfires are created to remind us of -- what, exactly? People dance and eat and drink and sing and celebrate across the globe. Perhaps, they create bonfires because fire is a symbol that the sun will be remaining for more hours in the day. The warmth of the sun reminding us to feel the light -- of the Goddess -- upon our faces. When we celebrate the longer days it may give us a sense that life is beautiful, happier, filled with parties and friendship and, yes, even bonfires. Some of us will create our own bonfires on the beach this summer. Some of us will barbecue in our backyards. And yet some of us will honor our Goddesses in other ways. Perhaps we will look within for the words to express the stories of our own lives -- just as Maya Angelou had for many years. Perhaps we will honor our own prophethood this summer by catching up on art, music, dance, travel, or just being with our loved ones even more.

I am reminded that the solstice is a time of turning toward the light more. And honoring the light within by rejuvenating our souls in the only way we know how. As the lazy days of summer come upon us, may we rejuvenate so that we may rise again and again at the end of the summer. So that we may rise when we must return to school or work or the winter months in which the sun retreats a little bit earlier in the day. Let this time be a time of dance and celebration and a time of fulfilling your every need. I pledge to turn toward the sun and remember what I need to feel whole again -- so that I may continue to rise during the winter. Will you join me? I

You may write me down in history  
With your bitter, twisted lies,  
You may tread me in the very dirt  
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?  
Why are you beset with gloom?  
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells  
Pumping in my living room.

Just like moons and like suns,  
With the certainty of tides,  
Just like hopes springing high,  
Still I'll rise.

Did you want to see me broken?  
Bowed head and lowered eyes?  
Shoulders falling down like teardrops.  
Weakened by my soulful cries.

Does my haughtiness offend you?  
Don't you take it awful hard  
'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines  
Diggin' in my own back yard.

You may shoot me with your words,  
You may cut me with your eyes,  
You may kill me with your hatefulness,  
But still, like air, I'll rise.

Does my sexiness upset you?  
Does it come as a surprise  
That I dance like I've got diamonds  
At the meeting of my thighs?

Out of the huts of history's shame  
I rise  
Up from a past that's rooted in pain  
I rise  
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,  
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.  
Leaving behind nights of terror and fear  
I rise  
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear  
I rise  
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,  
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.  
I rise  
I rise  
I rise.

**Namaste and love,**

**Summer**

# Calendar @ a Glance:

## Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8am

**Men's Breakfast** (Men's Breakfast is a social breakfast gathering of the men in the fellowship, held at a local restaurant. All are welcome.)

## June 1, 12 Noon

### **Worship Service Committee**

## June 10, 6:30-8:30pm

**Food for the Spirit** (Food for the Spirit is our monthly potluck. We share a potluck and great discussion on a variety of topics, facilitated by different volunteers each month. It takes place the second Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 PM, and childcare is provided. We are always looking for new volunteer facilitators. If interested, please contact Jane Myneni at [jane.myneni@bak.rr.com](mailto:jane.myneni@bak.rr.com).)

## June 12, 10:30am-12:30pm

**Seasoned Souls Women's Group** (contact Wilma Goodloe 832-9582 and see the next page for details)

**UUFKC Board Meeting** (Our Board meetings are always the fourth Monday of each month at 6:30 PM, at the café at the Doubletree)



# 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. The Worship Leader helps to create and maintain the mood of the worship service and to keep the service flowing smoothly. They are there to provide assistance to the minister when she is in the pulpit and to provide the framework for the worship service on the Sundays that are lay led or when we have a visiting minister.

As always we are most grateful for the service provided by our worship leaders. If anyone is interested in becoming a Worship Leader please contact Pat Berthold at 589-1231 or [orpber@uuu.org](mailto:orpber@uuu.org)

# Speakers and Messages:

**June 1st—Summer Albayati-Krikeche, Andy Kendall, Anna Laven**

## **“Religious Education As A Shared Journey ”**

Why is Religious Education so important to Unitarian Universalists? Why is it considered a shared journey? This Sunday you will hear from our minister, and our two religious education coordinators (children and adults) who will reflect on these questions. We will, also, honor our teachers who give so much to this beloved community. This is a service you won't want to miss!

## **Drumming/Music as a Spiritual Practice Class**

After our service, Summer will lead us on a journey with music and drumming as a spiritual practice. In this hands-on workshop, we will take a journey by creating our own meditative states with the drum. Music as a meditative tool from various cultures will be explored. If you have a drum then bring it! Otherwise, there will be drums provided.

**June 8th—Arturo Rodriguez, President UFW**

## **“Justice for Farm Workers”**

Mr. Rodriguez, president of the United Farm Workers, will be speaking. We are very fortunate that Mr. Rodriguez has agreed to speak to our group. He will give us insights concerning the current situation for farm workers.

**June 15th—Summer Albayati-Krikeche**

## **“Faith, Hope and Love in a Difficult World ”**

How do we continue to have faith, hope and love when there seem to be so many problems in the world? How can we continue our shared journeys when the world's problems seem so overwhelming? Come this Sunday to find answers to these questions and more! This is the last sermon from our minister before she leaves for General Assembly and then summer vacation. We hope to see you this Sunday at our fellowship!

**June 22nd—Adam Sawyer**

## **“Fathers and Father Surrogates”**

**June 29th—Marina Oja**

## **“What is the Secret to a Happy Relationship”**

So many people, especially young people, want a happy and fulfilling romantic relationship, but how does that happen? Marina will discuss some findings from the study of interpersonal relationships, but expects that you can glean more information from the stories of happy couples. So, members from the congregation will share their stories and advice with you, too! If you're young or older, in a relationship or not,

# Congregational Meeting Minutes

## May 18, 2014

The Annual Congregational Meeting was called to order at 12:11 pm, Sunday, May 18, 2014, by President Bill Stevenson. A quorum of members is present. The agenda is as follows: Brief summary of the year and thanks to all responsible, Presentation of the budget for July 2014- June 2015, Election of new board members and Nominating committee, vote on the ordination of Minister Summer Albayati-Krikeche.

President Bill Stevenson thanked:

Larry Taylor and the Worship Committee for maintaining a high level of quality services this year

Richard Malicdem and the Buildings and Grounds committee for keeping our physical plant attractive and well-maintained

Carol Snyder for her tireless efforts with all of our gardening needs, including the new Memorial Garden

Anna Laven for a successful year of Adult Religious Education and Pledge Drive Campaign

Andy Kendall for superb work with the Religious Education program overall

and the UUFKC Board for giving of their time and effort in keeping the Congregation moving forward.

For the coming year we will seek a bid for the property value of our Fellowship property and we will work to update the by-laws of our Fellowship.

Treasurer Red Le Cain presented the budget for the coming year. Thanks to the efforts of Anna Laven, the pledge committee, and the members of the Fellowship, the budget is based on \$70,500 in pledges up from last year's pledges of \$68,150. During the past year \$2700 was borrowed from savings to complete the year's financial picture in the black.

Elaine LeCain moved and Mendy McMasters seconded the motion to accept the budget as presented. After some discussion, the motion passed with 2 abstentions.

Rob Berthold, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of officers for the year 2014- 2015:

President, Bill Stevenson

Vice President, Duncan Low

Treasurer, Red LeCain

Secretary, Jane Myneni

Members at large, Elaine LeCain, John Means, Gale Taylor

Because many of the current board members are returning to serve again, it is hoped there will not be a "mass exodus" at the end of this new term and a request was made to the board to plan ahead so that this does not occur.

Pat Berthold moved and Liora Malicdem seconded the motion that the nominations be accepted. Motion passed.

The nominating committee composed of Rob Berthold, Laura Stevenson and Richard Malicdem agreed to a second term. Heather Ponek volunteered to be the fourth member of the nominating committee. A question was raised about youth members being eligible to serve on the board and/or committees. The new board will address this as an agenda item for its next meeting. Liora Malicdem requested we look at the big picture of the Coming of Age ceremony, Bridging, etc. and look for more opportunities for service to the congregation so that our young people can be more fully considered members. Marina Oja offered that there are opportunities to serve on the District level, too. Minister Summer Albayati-Krikeche mentioned that it is important that youth serve in all capacities and Pat Berthold reminded us all that young people can always volunteer to help in any capacity. Andy Kendall moved and Mendy McMasters seconded the motion that all four members of the nominating committee be accepted. Motion passed.

The following discussion required Minister Summer Albayati-Krikeche and her mother, Barbara Albayati temporarily leave the meeting, which they did.

Liora Malicdem explained that in Unitarian Universalism all power comes from the congregations. Even though our minister, Summer, has completed all the requirements, we, as her congregation, can be the ones to vote for her ordination. The Board has the power to do this on its own and the Board President, Bill Stevenson, wanted the entire congregation to have the opportunity to vote. Other comments were made to support this decision. Elaine LeCain moved and Mark Hodson seconded the motion to propose Summer Albayati-Krikeche as an ordained minister. A unanimous vote followed. Bill Stevenson thanked Liora Malicdem and Rev. Denis Letourneau Paul for their service as co-ministers that lead us to be in such a strong position as a congregation.

Summer and Barbara reentered to a standing ovation.

Mirna Sawyer, Anna Laven, John Means, Linda Haggerty, Gale Taylor, Isolde Frank and Elaine LeCain volunteered to be on an ordination committee representing our Fellowship. Elaine will email a list of this committee to Summer. The Ordination ceremony will take place September 28, 2014, 4:00 pm, at the Verdugo Hills Church in La Crescenta, California. The process to becoming a full minister includes fellowship, ordination and final fellowship.

A suggestion for making memorials at the Fellowship, including this ordination, was made by Mirna Sawyer, as was done for Adam Sawyer's father at the Onion Church in North Hills, CA. The Board will follow up on the suggestion.

Meeting adjourned at 12:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine LeCain

UUFKC Secretary

# THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

We, the member congregations  
of the Unitarian Universalist  
Association, covenant to affirm  
and promote:

The inherent worth and dignity  
of every person

Justice, equity, and compassion in  
human relations

Acceptance of one another and  
encouragement to spiritual growth in  
our congregations

A free and responsible search  
for truth and meaning

The right of conscience and the use  
of the democratic process within our  
congregations and in society at large

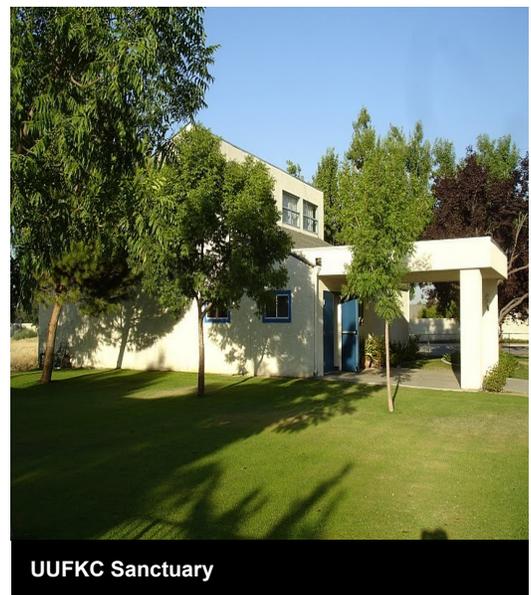
The goal of world community with  
peace, liberty, and justice for all

Respect for the interdependent web of  
all existence of which we are a part

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*“Men have never done  
much when the heart  
has been cold; and what  
have they not done,  
what have they not sub-  
dued, when the heart  
has been quickened to  
generous emotions? To  
rob religion of sensibility  
is to make it inert and  
unproductive.”*

*-William Ellery Channing  
(Unitarian Clergy, Theolo-*



UUFKC Sanctuary

**Deadline for Next  
Month's July Unikern:**

**June 23rd, 2014**

**(I will be leaving at the of June, so  
please be timely with your submissions)**