



STANDING ON THE SIDE OF

LOVE

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF KERN COUNTY

UniKern 2014

November 2014

A Message from Our Minister

The late and great Louis Armstrong sang a song that speaks to how I would like to view the world. Even though there is so much pain and suffering in the world, I have always chosen to view it as beautiful and full of love. Perhaps that is why I enjoy belonging to a beloved community that reminds me of beauty just as the song does. When I am feeling blue, the beloved community has a way to fill my heart with joy, and I am grateful.

What are those words of that sentimental song?

"The colors of the rainbow so pretty in the sky
Are also on the faces of people goin' by
I see friends shaking hands saying, "How do you do"
They're really saying "I love you."
I hear babies cry, I watch them grow
They'll learn much more than I'll ever know;
And I think to myself, What a wonderful world;
Yes, I think to myself, What a wonderful world.
Oh yeah!"

These lyrics were sung at my ordination by the great jazz musician, Billy Mitchell (Uncle Billy as I have always called him). There was a moment of gratitude in which we all took part in singing the words "I love you." At that moment, tears began to fall as I felt the enormity of this beloved faith of ours known as Unitarian Universalism. We have a faith that is concerned with the faces of the people going by that reflect the colors of the rainbow. We have a faith that believes in our children and youth as the future who will learn more than we will ever know. We have a faith that believes in love as the most powerful force used to overcome pain and suffering. We have a living faith that transforms those who come across its paths, even if they never become a card carrying member of one of our congregations.

Dorothea Dix was one of those people who became transformed when she heard William Ellery Channing preach of God as love and that we are all a part of that love -- called to show that love to others. And she did. She made the world more wonderful for the mentally ill in the 1800's. She helped mentally ill women in prison who were being treated terribly by using her connections within the Massachusetts government to stop the horrific treatments. As a result, hospitals were opened that focused on treating the mentally ill with respect. Does that remind you of one of our cherished principles? Our first one is a belief in the "inherent worth and dignity of every person." Dix believed in this principle because she believed in the power of love to transform this world.

This November, let us be grateful for our Unitarian Universalist ancestors like Dorothea Dix and William Ellery Channing who helped to transform this beautiful faith. Let us be thankful for a faith that believes that "we shall overcome someday." Let us continue to embrace the attitude that it is a wonderful world, and that we make it that way together -- in a beloved community.

I came across a quote thought to belong to Dix:

"The comfortable and comforting people are those who look upon the bright side of life; gathering its roses and sunshine and making the most that happens seem the best."

Let's gather the roses and sunshine this November. Comfort those who need to be comforted. Be love in the world.

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.)

November 8, 8:00am-10:00am

Workday at the Fellowship We'll plant a tree, heighten our curb appeal and continue clearing those tumbleweeds! Tumbleweeds are the weeds that won the West. Check the Fellowship Facebook to see what a pile 1/3rd of the tumbleweeds made on our last work day!

Bring gloves, and a happy heart! Water and camaraderie will be supplied. Any suggestions for future projects welcome—see you there!

November 13, 10:30am-12:30pm

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

November 19, 6:30-8:30pm

Food for the Spirit (Food for the Spirit is our monthly potluck. All are welcome! Bring a dish to share, if you're able, and join us for great food and conversation. RSVP's are welcome, when possible. Otherwise, you're welcome to just show up. To RSVP, please contact Jane Myneni at jane.myneni@bak.rr.com.

Every Sunday in November – Donations for The Caring Closet Contact: Marit MacArthur

UUFKC Board Meeting (This month will be held on Sunday the 16th at 6:30 PM, at the café at the Doubletree Hotel. Members are welcome to attend.

Speakers and Messages:

November 2nd -Speaker: Summer Albayati-Krikeche

“Embracing an Attitude of Gratitude “

How do we foster an attitude of gratitude when facing life's difficulties? How can being grateful help us to be happier?

Nov 9th: Speaker: Dick Taylor

“Our Veterans”

Dick Taylor is a Bakersfield native who has served in the U.S. Marine Corps. Since 2012, he has been Director of the Kern County Veterans Service Representative. He is also active in other ways. He will speak to us about the needs and concerns of our veterans.

Nov 16th: Speaker: Rev. Albayati-Krikeche and the Youth

“A Youth-Full Service”

This Sunday Summer will co-create a service with our youth. Come and see how the youth envision worship and be filled with a Youth-Full spirit!

Nov 23rd: Speaker: Vic King

“Re-incarnations and Buddhism ”

Vic is a member of our congregation and will speak on re-incarnation, and Buddhism and their relationship to modern cosmology.

Nov 30th: Speaker: Rev. Summer Albayati-Krikeche

TBA

That the paradox of life
is to love it all the more
even though we
ultimately
lose it.



Religious Education

Religious Education Classes are Back!

After the service, everyone will participate in the Fall Religious Education program. We welcome Chris and Isolde Frank as our Co- Coordinators for our Children's Religious Education Program! Please, see Chris and Isolde for more information on what each of the classes are doing. We will be scheduling RE on the Sundays in which Summer is in the pulpit. Please see list below for RE dates:

9/21
10/5
10/26 -- Wear Halloween Costumes!
11/2
11/16
11/30 -- Thanksgiving Weekend -- No Religious Education classes scheduled
12/14
12/21 -- Christmas Service -- Someone's coming to town!

Adult RE Class:

"Justice and Ethics in Unitarian Universalism"

In this Adult Religious Education class we will explore justice and ethics within Unitarian Universalism. We will identify what it is that calls us to a life of justice and ethical responsibility. We will look at how justice and ethics plays out in our daily lives. We will answer the question: Can I live a more just and ethical life? and ethics within Unitarian Universalism. We will identify what it is that calls us to a life of justice and ethical responsibility. We will look at how justice and ethics plays out in our daily lives. We will answer the question: Can I live a more just and ethical life?



“Of all the ingenious mistakes into which erring man has fallen, perhaps none have been so pernicious in their consequences, or have brought so many evils into the world, as the popular opinion that the way of the transgressor is pleasant and easy. “

-Hosea Ballou, UU Clergy

Garden Committee Work Days

The Garden Committee, working with Building and Grounds plans to have a monthly, short, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Work day on the second Saturday of each month at the Fellowship. The goal is to keep the Campus looking neat and inviting. The monthly focus will change as needs occur with the seasons.

Our next work day will be held November 8th with a focus on clearing the Tumbleweeds on our property before they get any larger, as well as some planting. A “Tumble Weed Hoedown”.

An E-Mail will be sent to members and friends a week prior with details.

Mark your Calendar and lend a hand!

**Deadline for Next
Month's November
Unikern November
27th, 2014**