

SUUS NEWS

Sepulveda Unitarian Universalist Society

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Lee Marie Sanchez, Minister

Church office hours: Monday thru Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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JANUARY 2012

SUNDAY SERVICE BEGINS AT 10:30 AM

Sunday, January 1

BURNING BOWL: A NEW YEAR'S RITUAL

Worship Associate, Garry Klepser

As the old year comes to its end, a new year comes to life. Our days have held their share of joys and sorrows, successes and shortcomings, fond memories and regrets. What will you take with you into the next year? What will you leave behind? Though much may seem certain, 2012 is a year's worth of new opportunities. Share your expectations, your hopes, and your dedications as we usher in the New Year.

Sunday, January 8

RADICAL GRATITUDE

Speaker: Rev. Patrick Harbula

Worship Associate, Barbara Vargas

Rev. Patrick will share how he learned the power of "radical gratitude" through a life threatening illness that inspired "or forced" him to live in a consistent state of surrender and consciousness of peace, calm and sacredness creating a life of greater joy, enthusiasm, and freedom. Soul-stirring songstress and recording artist, Tina Meeks, is our special guest musician this morning.

Sunday, January 15

WHAT IS RELIGION FOR US & OTHERS?

Speaker: Lee Marie Sanchez, SUUS Minister

Worship Associate, Debbie Rice

Some have asked, even Unitarian Universalists, if we are a religion. Let's take a look at how the religious impulse has taken form for us and for others in providing meaning, beauty, hope, and inspiration. What are the attendant rituals of our lives we have each chosen to form our beloved communities? This will be the first in a series of services for us to explore how it is that we connect and how we are enriched by the wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life. Be here for our series. As this is also the birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we will also lift up this great man. The Onionaires, our SUUS choir, will be singing in this service.

Sunday, January 22

SANCTUARY FOR ALL LIFE

Speaker, Emrys Staton

Worship Associate, Debbie Rice

Humanitarian activist and UU seminarian Emrys Staton will discuss the recent history of immigration activism along the border between the United States and Mexico, beginning with the Sanctuary Movement of the 1980s. Faith communities learned that ongoing human rights violations required faith communities to take bold steps to protect those affected by harmful policies and practices. With the ongoing unjust treatment of immigrants, UUs can take the initiative to make our communities safer and more welcoming for all.

Sunday, January 29

THE ONE AND THE MANY, HINDUISM

Speaker: Lee Marie Sanchez, SUUS Minister

Worship Associate, Al Kaletsky

The oldest living faith tradition in the world, Hinduism comes to us from the distant past and yet it is always evolving. Seeing and experiencing the many paths to the Holy and yet the Holy is One, is a hallmark of this incredibly rich, vibrant and exciting faith. This will be the first faith tradition we will be exploring in a series of services, as we come to see that Unitarian Universalism draws from the wisdom of all the world's religions. We hope you will be joining us for this amazing journey. The Onionaires, our SUUS choir, will be singing.



Lee Marie's Musings Habits of the Heart

As I sit in the soaring Sanctuary of our Onion dome on Sunday mornings,
And as I meander around the grounds of our sacred site of magnificent trees
and historic buildings, I can almost hear in the wind, the whispering of all the people of the past
whose habits of the heart gifted this place to us here now.

The people of the Onion have stood for justice here in the Valley for decades. We ground
ourselves here on our beautiful principles of Unitarian Universalism. We enjoy many and varied fun
times here in a warm, welcoming community. We sing and meditate, pray and reflect on our paths
together, to be the best people we can be, in mutual love and respect, working for a peaceful
world.

This coming year will be full of delights and surprises. Each month we will be hosting a UU minister
or a Candidate for ministry who will bring us a variety of ways of understanding the holy and the
generous in our lives. I will be preaching a series on the wisdom of the world's religions and how
our faith will support our individual and collective journeys. Our Social Justice Council has
prepared wonderful program activities in which we hope you'll join us. And there's more!

I sincerely hope that you will make one of your personal habits of the heart, your purchases from
the SUUS Store, with our proprietor, Don Ordway, at the back of the Sanctuary every Sunday.
These purchases of fair-traded, organic products, goods made by women's collectives and more,
support the people who grow and create these items, but they also financially support the work of
the Onion! As Ron Ruscillo said, this is a "Win-Win for UU!" Women's Bean Project: *"My past is full
of regret and mistakes... My self-esteem has taken a severe beating over the years and I had a fear
of rejection... [Now] the chance to get and stay well....to set and achieve goals...to realize that
what I do has potential...It appears that someone is more interested in my future than my past and
I am grateful for that."*

Inspired by these words, blessed by our past, and ready to co-create our future.

Faithfully & Fondly, Lee Marie

TO: My beloved community
FROM: Katie Anderson, President
RE: Our Onion



Out with the old and in with the new. I am personally excited to welcome 2012 and I hope you are too! We had a very successful 2011 at SUUS and have a lot to celebrate. After some financial bumps, we secured another long-term rental for our beautiful sanctuary and started our second year of leasing to Language Garden Community Preschool. Both have turned out to be good relationships and have created a more solid income base. We emphasized stewardship and have increased our pledges! We said goodbye to our dear pianist Jill Redding and welcomed Marina Bykhovsky. We said Aloha to Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kwong and welcomed Lee Marie Sanchez! We welcomed six new members! We held our 2nd annual Casino Night. We got the Long Range Plan moving forward. We started a pilot garden project to give back to our community. And the list goes. See? I can hardly wait to see what transpires in 2012!

What are *your* hopes for 2012? The Board of Trustees will be hosting our 2nd “Board Talk” of the year on January 15th after the service. Gather round the coffee bar after the service for an open chat with a couple of BoT members.

And speaking of “chats,” the BoT adopted an electronic communications policy to increase the effectiveness of our congregations’ decision making, part of which I’ll quote here: “strive to use email and other electronic communication methods only as a means to transfer concrete information. Any decision-making actions that require the sharing of ideas or the soliciting of opinions are best served in an actual, physical committee meeting environment so that thoughts can be shared immediately and with thorough Explanation and supporting ideas in order to reduce the likelihood of miscommunication.”

Onward and upward...

Happy New Year to You, and to suUS!

Katie

NEWS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE



The next **New UU ORIENTATION** for newcomers will be held
Sunday, January 15 from 11:45-1:45 in the Ballou Room
Light refreshments will be provided and childcare is available upon request.
(Contact the SUUS office at 818-894-9251 by 1/10 if childcare is needed)

Have yoUU found a spiritual home at SUUS?
A “Welcoming Ceremony for New Members” will be scheduled soon.
Please contact Katie Anderson if you are interested in membership

concert series task force

Want More Music?

We are looking into establishing an ongoing concert series at the Onion, and we need your help in planning a successful concert program. SUUS is establishing a concert series task force whose charge will be to establish a policy, pricing structure and a year-round calendar. If you are interested in helping to create such a task force and to do some work in getting it started, or if you just want more music at the Onion, **concert series task force** please contact **Craig Anderson** at craigmantra@earthlink.net.

ART GALLERY NEWS – We are currently featuring the artwork of Rosina Paluzzi, oil painter. Her work is vibrant and sometimes whimsical and futuristic. Most of the work hanging are Giclee copies making the art very affordable. Giclees are high quality professionally done copies of original art. The Onion benefits from the sale of every painting. For more info call **Janice Levine 818 894-8661**

The Choir presented their Winter Concert

“We were truly blessed with good weather, excellent turn out, and joyous fellowship as we celebrated the winter holiday season in song! Worship Associate Gloria Burr and the choir worked hard in preparing this service and it showed as we added some new songs such as “We Are Lights” for Hanukah and “Chime Song” to get us in the Christmas mood.

Lynn Prager and Oliver Cabrera treated us to wonderful solos and the congregation rose to the occasion joining in for the finale. Now that we start the New Year with Onionaires rehearsals on Thursday, January 5th, we do welcome some of those same voices to join us!”



HAPPY NEW YEAR! *Leigh Garner*, Director of Music

January Birthday Celebrants

8-Jan	Brent Coffee
8-Jan	Cecily Garnhardt
26-Jan	Jeff Thomas
30-Jan	Nathan Wilkins



Fun Page

“Fun Stuff Befitting Singles, Mingles & Families”

Weekly Meetings:

Sunday Jan 1st, 2012 - - 1st Sunday at Noon and 3rd Tuesday, Jan. 17th 7 pm -New Writer's Group in Cottage - Jeff & Marilyn

Wednesday Mornings, Bike Ride & Lunch - 10:00 am at Mikey's House. We use the bike path around Lake Balboa, then we go out to lunch - it's O.K to just do lunch at 12:00 with the "Lunch Bunch" - meet at 11:45 am at Mike's house (818) 342-1073

Wednesday Evenings - Adult Book Study Group - “Holiday Sabbatical” but will continue probably in February. Watch this page and Sunday bulletin for restart date. Lynn

Thurs Eves – 7:15 pm Onionaires in Onion

Friday mornings - 10 am - Conscious Aging Group - Conference Room Ida

Monthly meetings:

Sunday, Jan 1st, - 12:00 Noon All men welcome to join the **Men's Small Group Ministry** sessions. We meet after services, the 1st Sunday of each month at in the Ballou Room for 1 hour. Always open to new participants. Drop in - Gerardo

Monday, Jan 9th, 2012 - Spiritual Unity Movement's monthly World Healing Ceremony - 6:55 to 8:45 pm. Featuring the Rev Patrick Harbula leading us in an intention-setting ceremony - “Stepping Into 2012”. Bring drums for a very rhythmic evening. Some rhythm instruments provided. www.spiritualunitymovement.org

First Thursday of the Month Mornings - Jan 5th, & a TBA Saturday - 10:30 am - in our homes - Women's Book Group -;Spiritual, Mysticism, Philosophical Book Group is on sabbatical - Watch this column for starting date or call Valerie or Barrie

Second Friday, January 13th, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Join the drummers at “**Onion Monthly Drumming Circle**” Join drummers from the neighboring community and SUUS folks discover the joy, spirituality and exhilaration of playing drums together. Some percussion instruments provided or bring your own. \$10 Donation “Suggested”. Barbara

Friday, Jan 20th - 7:00 pm Onion Coffee House Celebration of an “Open Mic” Featuring the Song Makers and sing-a-long. Simon Lucas will lead us. All are welcome to share their music, their writings, poetry, and dancing. FREE - donations for refreshments and bar.

Saturday, Jan 28th - 6:30 pm - Mike's Camera Club with Pot-luck featuring delicious foods and great company - at Mike's house (818) 342-1073 Bring your Slides, CD's or flash drives of pictures

Sunday, Jan. 29th at Noon following Services – **Spanish Conversation & Lunch Group** - Gerardo and Valerie. Gather for lunch at **Buon Gusto**

LOOKING FORWARD: Looking forward to a concert or two coming in February



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Last Chance --Silent Auction January items

Come Join Us for an Intro To Yoga Class!

**January 15, starting promptly Sunday, before service at 8:20 AM. In Onion
Stay for service with Rev. Sanchez...on Hinduism, from which yoga sprang.**

Yoga is a way to regain, and maintain your health, vitality and sense of spirit. Whether you've tried yoga before or are an absolute beginner, you will learn a lot about yoga in this fun, challenging, one hour and fifteen minute class. You will practice yoga poses designed for overall health.

Wear loose fitting, warming clothes, bring a small bottle of water, and a towel -- be prepared to sweat, work hard, and learn. Bring your own mat, if you don't have one, there will be extra mats on hand. \$10 to SUUS / Silent Auction
Yelba Zoe Osorio Namaste ---

Open The Door To Everywhere poetry by Richard Weekley

Sunday, noon, in the Ballou Room following the January 29th Service.

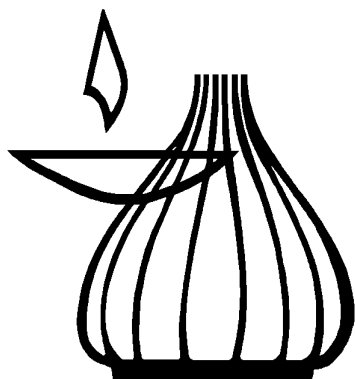
Discover EVERYWHERE IS really is here

Bask in a poetic potpourri of fleeting shadows from around the globe. Catch poetic glimpses read from Richard's published works. Participate by reading your poem or a poem by a poet you enjoy. Maybe bring 15 copies to share. Bring an appetite for hors d'oeuvres, savory meatballs, and wine. \$10 to SUUS / Silent Auction

Review of 2010 event: Thank you for hosting such a lovely afternoon. The poetry was inspiring, thought-provoking, amusing, and just good fun. And oh, those meatballs were delicious!

A few spaces remain open at these Auction events. Contact Barrie at 805-610-8499, Yelba or Richard

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Newsletter is published every month.
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The next newsletter deadline is at Noon, Thursday, January 19, 2012
This is for articles concerning the February 2012 edition
E- MAIL Articles to the editor's e-mail address above,
or office@valleyunion.org.

To request a sample newsletter, order a yearly subscription, or report a change of address,
please contact the Office Administrator at 818-894-9251.

We request a \$25 donation for a yearly subscriptions.
Please make checks out to SUUS and mail to the address above.

READ THE NEWSLETTER ON THE INTERNET: www.valleyunion.org

President: Katie Anderson
Vice President: Barrie Hafler
Finance Officer: Craig Anderson
Secretary: Margaret Kiever

Treasurer: Gary Klepser
Office Administrator: Ramon Alvarez
Music Director: Leigh Garner
Pianist: Marina Bykhovsky