

APRIL 2012

Transformation

Mission of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Santa Clarita Valley

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Santa Clarita Valley enhances the lives of members through spiritual development and active service in the community. We offer a diverse, non-dogmatic spiritual home to all who share our values as defined by the Unitarian Universalist Association. We provide a liberal religious voice, a social justice presence in the Santa Clarita Valley, and a stimulating and supportive environment to help our members on their own spiritual journeys during all stages of their lives.



To find the way, close your eyes, listen closely, and attend with your heart.

(Anonymous)

In **APRIL**, as the season of Spring transforms the earth, we explore the universal yearning for, and promise of, personal and societal transformation. We honor the religious stories and rituals of the season that transform fear into love, ignorance and arrogance into wisdom, greed into generosity, despair into hope. We look for and celebrate the return of green to the hillsides, of birdsong to the morning skies, and the lingering colors of delayed dusk. These annual changes are a joy to the heart; a reminder of the mysterious complexity

and creative resiliency of the natural world. As metaphors these changes urge humanity to trust that beneath the cold, dark seasons of life lie many seeds preparing to transform the landscape of our future. More often than not those seeds were planted by hands other than our own. And so it is with gratitude that we think of those who came before, seeking to walk tenderly through the garden of their vision and to plant our own seeds. Applying this metaphor to congregational life and to this month's stewardship drive, you are invited to notice and celebrate the "flowering" of this

congregation; to relish this ever-transforming garden of liberal religious values. And, to envision its future. *Which roots would you wish to see strengthened? Which shoots do you envision reaching up and out? How might the garden of this congregation invite, serve and transform the larger community?* Your vision will make whatever "seeds" you plant (whether they are financial in nature, seeds of time or of insight) much more likely to grow and thrive, and to be a source of joy and inspiration to all!

If you could "transform" an element of yourself or of the world what tools would you need?

(Write, doodle or draw your response)

Unitarian Universalists of Santa Clarita Valley



2012

Website: <http://uuofscv.org>

While there are many paths to spiritual growth, it helps to regularly set aside time to think deeply about our experiences and how they relate to our core values. This year each month's worship services at UUofSCV lift up a particular theological theme for your reflection. You may also choose to engage with that theme by reading some of the books recommended here, watching movies related to the theme, discussing and/or journaling your thoughts, creating art, poetry or music, or engaging in service. May your insights unfold gently and joyfully, inspiring acts of love. In Awe & Gratitude, Rev. Stefanie (RevSteffi@gmail.com)



Movies and books on the theme of TRANSFORMATION:

MOVIES:

Alice in Wonderland (G)
Wizard of Oz (G)
Psycho (R)
The King's Speech (R)
The Last Temptation of Christ (R)
Muriel's Wedding (R)
Alchemy: The Art of Spiritual Transformation (NR)
Seven Years in Tibet (PG-13)
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13)
Kony 2012 at <http://vimeo.com/37119711>

BOOKS FOR ADULTS:

Sacred Rhythms, Ruth Haley Barton
Metamorphosis, Franz Kafka
The Art of Happiness, Dalai Lama
Recover All, Robert Reid
The Naked Soul, Alan Gardner
Cutting Through Spiritual Materialism, Chogyam Trungpa
Coming Back to Life, Joana Macy
Collective Visioning, Linda Stout

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN:

Wild Swans, Hans Christian Anderson
Wings of Change, Franklin Hill
Story Medicine: Multicultural Tales, Norma Livo

If you want to shrink something, you must first allow it to expand.
If you want to get rid of something, you must first allow it to flourish.
If you want to take something, you must first allow it to be given.

- Tao Te Ching, Translated by Stephen Mitchell

READINGS FROM THE SINGING THE LIVING TRADITION HYMNAL:
419, 464, 468, 489, 510, 558, 562, 568, 570, 601, 612, 625, 654, 655..

*"Colors, tunes,
and perfumes pour
in endless cascades
in the abounding joy
that scatters and
gives up and dies
every moment"*

Rabindranath Tagore:
(from the Singing the:
Living Tradition hymnal, #612):

Questions for Reflection:

- What story of Transformation inspires you?
- What is a story of Transformation from your own life?
- Who or what encouraged or aided that Transformation?
- How has that process enriched or strengthened you?
- What kind of Transformation do you envision for yourself, your family, this church, the wider community, the world?

Quotes to ponder:

To truly hear you must quiet the mind. - Anonymous

The greatest thing you can do is reveal your riches to one another. - Benjamin Disraeli

We cannot live only for ourselves. A thousand fibers connect us with our fellow men. - Herman Melville

It's never too late to be who you might have been. - George Eliot

He who is not busy being born is busy dying. - Bob Dylan

Happiness is like a butterfly; the more you chase it, the more it will elude you. Turn your attention to other things and it will come sit softly on your shoulder. - Henry David Thoreau

Not everything that is faced can be changed. But nothing can be changed until it is faced. - James Baldwin

Plant a seed to know transformation. - Anonymous

NEXT MONTH'S THEME: TRANSCENDENCE!

In **MAY** we explore understandings of and potential implications for transcendence as a spiritual goal. Look for next month's Resource Flyer and invite a friend to Sunday services at 10:30 am (22900 Market St., Newhall, CA).

Have a poem, drawing, book or movie recommendation for next month's issue on "TRANSCENDENCE", or for inclusion in an upcoming worship service? Want to help organize a movie outing or group discussion or share information about a service project relating to a planned monthly theme? Contact the Committee on Shared Ministry or Rev. Stefanie (RevSteffi@gmail.com) by the 15th of this month.