

FEBRUARY 2012

Love

In **FEBRUARY** we explore LOVE: that mysterious, deeply personal emotional experience that has influenced art, architecture, poetry, literature, music, fashion, religion, law and the public and private lives of individuals since farther back than anyone can count. Love, in its various forms and stages, is known to inspire everything from the heights of appreciation, intimacy, affection, creativity, passion, loyalty, clarity, courage, commitment, sacrifice, devotion, generosity and supreme joy - to the destructive depths of despair, dissatisfaction, remorse, fear, rage, loneliness and grief (which happens often when it is absent, misunderstood, abused, unrequited or ill-placed).

Mission of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Santa Clarita

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.



At its best, Love given and/or received affirms one's sense of individual worth and unique place in this world - one's capacity for kindness and compassion. Those who say that "God is Love" recognize it as an eternal presence, imbued within all that lives - and as an ideal toward which human beings must ever strive. Jewish tradition speaks of the directive to love God's Law, and to express that Love through service and acts of loving kindness to everyone (including strangers). Christianity links Love with divine sacrifice and with salvation. Islam teaches that Love is one of God's greatest blessings upon humanity, to be returned through the cultivation of specific virtues. Buddhism defines

Love as the desire for another's well being.

While the seven Unitarian Universalist Principles do not specifically mention it, Love is lifted up in our Sources as a "transforming power", and in our living tradition as that which we are called to "put into action" and "stand on the side" of. Many UU congregations sing a blessing each Sunday (SLT hymn #413) "*may the love of God Surround you everywhere you may go*"; quote Francis David's words: "*you need not think alike to love alike*"; highlight Love in their Mission Statements, and in their Covenants; and speak of the love they feel for, and within, their congregations. What's your take on LOVE?

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 monthly resource flyer invites active engagement with each month's theme: listing books and movies, quotes and questions recommended by UUofSCV members. In response, you might find yourself sharing in-depth conversations, journaling your thoughts, creating art, poetry or music, and/or engaging in service. The possibilities are limitless! May your insights unfold gently and joyfully, inspiring acts of Love.
In Awe & Gratitude, Rev. Stefanie

Journaling About Love

Who taught/teaches you about Love?

By whom are you Loved?
How do you know? How does that feel?

What do you Love? Whom do you Love?
Why, and how does that Love
express itself? How does that feel?

What makes you Love-able?
How do you express Love of
yourself? Is that hard or easy to do?

When and where has your capacity
to Love, or be Loved, felt transformative
or taken you by surprise?

Why do you think Love is not listed in the
Seven Principles, among justice, equity,
compassion, peace, liberty, etc.?

How do you put Love into action?



When all the people
of the world love,
Then the strong will not
overpower the weak.
The many will not
oppress the few.
The wealthy will not
mock the poor
The honored will not
disdain the humble.
The cunning will not
deceive the simple.

*By Mo-Tse, From the
Singing the Living
Tradition hymnal, #601*

Movies, books and songs on the theme of LOVE, recommended by UUofSCV members:

MOVIES:

Love Actually (R)
Shakespeare in Love (R)
Westside Story (NR)
On Golden Pond (PG)
Eat, Pray, Love (PG-13)
Shrek (G)
High School Musical (G)

BOOKS FOR ADULTS:

Erich Fromm, The Art of Loving
*The Time Traveler's Wife, Audry
Niffenegger*
The Path to Love, Deepak Chopra
The Book of Love, Diane Ackerman
What About Love?, Gina Lake
*Rumi: The Book of Love, Coleman
Barks*
*Love and Friendship in Plato and
Aristotle, A. W. Price*
*Love Wins: A Book about Heaven,
Hell and the Fate of Every Person
Who Ever Lived, by Rob Bell*
*Here If You Need Me, by Kate
Braestrup*

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN:

*I Love you Through and Through,
Bernadette Rossetti-Shustake*
How Do Dinosaurs Love Their Cats?
Jane Yolen
Owen & Mzee, Hatkoff & Kahumbu
No Matter What, Debi Gliori
*I Am A Lovable Me!, by Sharon
Penchina & Dr. S. Hoffman*

SONGS:

*You Can't Hurry Love, The
Supremes*
*One Hand, One Heart, Westside
Story*
Just the Way You Are, Billy Joel
Love's Recovery, Indigo Girls
Only Love is Real, Carol King
Seasons of Love, Rent

READINGS FROM THE SINGING THE LIVING TRADITION

HYMNAL: 447, 468, 564, 597, 601,
639, 652, 697, 730...



Quotes to ponder:

It is better to be hated for what
you are than loved for what you
are not. - Andre Gide

Love in organizations, then, is the
most potent source of power we
have available. - Margaret J.
Wheatley

Being heard is so close to being
loved that for the average person
they are almost indistinguishable.
- David Augsburger

Love sometimes wants to do us a
great favor: hold us upside down
and shake all the nonsense out. -
Hafiz of Persia

That's all nonviolence is --
organized love. -Joan Baez

The giving of love is an education
in itself. - Eleanor Roosevelt

Pursue some path, however narrow
and crooked, in which you can
walk with love and reverence. -
Henry David Thoreau

There is always something left to
love. And if you ain't learned that,
you ain't learned nothing. - Lorraine
Hansberry

The hunger for love is much more
difficult to remove than the hunger
for bread. - Mother Teresa

Forget love. I'd rather fall in
chocolate. - Sandra J. Dykes

Love is an act of endless
forgiveness, a tender look which
becomes a habit. - Peter Ustinov

Hate leaves ugly scars, love leaves
beautiful ones. - Mignon
McLaughlin

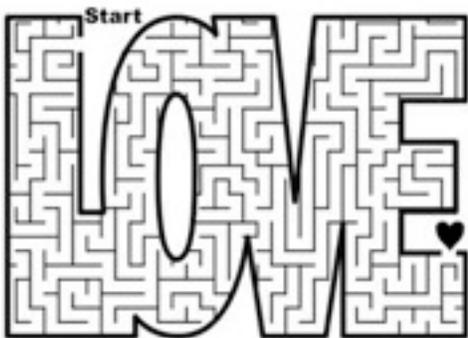
Love must be as much a light, as
it is a flame. - Henry David
Thoreau

Only in love are unity and duality
not in conflict. - Rabindranath
Tagore

Love makes your soul crawl out
from its hiding place. - Zora Neale
Hurst

"Love is..." by Bill Hallett

...respect, desire, understanding, beauty, reverence, appreciation, humor, trusting, faithfulness, warmth, acceptance, liking, companionship, assisting, patience, mysterious, closeness, healing, revealing, intellectual, improving, imaginative, honesty, truthful, enduring, transcending, openness, worshipful, kindness, colorful, sensual, religious, improving, attentive, friendly, caring, devotion, nurturing, thoughtful, perpetual, unconditional, unselfish, intensive, innate, sincerity, ethical, colorful, growing, compatible, grateful, fascinating, flexible, complete, learning, sympathetic, positive, admiring, enjoying, humane, philosophical, concerned, genuine, spiritual, social, moral, conscientious, awesome, awareness, tenderness, alive, fondness, pleasure, duty, beloved, delightful, rewarding, cherishing, exhausting, adoring, rapport, treasuring, forgiving, adorable, fanciful, energetic, erudite, non-apologetic, strength...?



LOVE
IS
A VERB!

What living being, place, or symbol
do you associate with LOVE?

(Try to doodle or draw your response)

Out of the Mouths of Babes...

- * "When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth." (Billy-age 4)
- * "Love is what makes you smile when you're tired." (Terri-age 4)
- * "If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend you hate." (Nikka-age 6)



Did You Know...?!

"Standing On the Side of Love" is a public advocacy campaign that seeks to harness love's power to stop oppression. It is sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association and all are welcomed to join.

The "Standing on the Side of Love" campaign was inspired by the 2008 shooting at Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, which was targeted because they are welcoming to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender people and have a liberal stance on many issues.

Since then Valentine's Day (February 14th) has been re-imagined as social justice holiday promoting equality, acceptance, diversity and inclusion.

For more information see: <http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org> or <http://www.uua.org/love/>

Rainer Maria Rilke (May 14, 1904)

To love is good, too: love being difficult.

For one human being to love another: that is perhaps the most difficult of all our tasks, the ultimate, the last test and proof, the work for which all other work is but preparation.

For this reason young people, who are beginners in everything, cannot yet know love: they have to learn it. With their whole being, with all their forces, gathered close about their lonely, timid, upward-beating heart, they must learn to love.

But learning-time is always a long, secluded time, and so loving, for a long while ahead and far on into life, is--solitude, intensified and deepened loneliness for him who loves.

Love is at first not anything that means merging, giving over, and uniting with another (for what would a union be of something un-clarified and unfinished, still subordinate--?), it is a high inducement to the individual to ripen, to become something in himself for another's sake, it is a great exacting claim upon him, something that chooses him out and calls him to vast things.

NEXT MONTH'S THEME:

In **MARCH** we explore **BROKENNESS**. As much the ideals of love, perfection and wholeness are valued, we are constantly confronted with those places within ourselves, within our families and our institutions, that fall short - that are broken and in need of healing. What can we learn from those experiences, and what role might UU values play in our responses to them? Look for next month's Resource Flyer and attend our Sunday services at 10:30 am (22900 Market St., Newhall, CA) on March 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th.

Have a poem, drawing, book or movie recommendation for upcoming issues of this flyer, 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 (Gerri Brehm, Sara Brown, Rick Kamlet) or Rev. Stefanie (RevSteffi@gmail.com)