

JANUARY 2012

Justice

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.



In **JANUARY** we explore **JUSTICE**: what it is, where it is to be found, where it is lacking, why it is a religious imperative, and what we each can do to contribute to it's presence on this earth.

Here's one way to think about it:

Unitarian Universalism recognizes each individual life as part of an intricate web of existence. The practice of contemplating how and why that web might have come to be is considered secondary to our obligation to strengthen it.

Justice exists when each strand is equally rooted to those around it, imparting beauty and purpose to the whole.

Furthering this metaphor, justice-work (activism) is a matter of tending simultaneously to the individual strands (local level) and to the web itself (global level).

Our embedded-ness within the web means that we are never alone in this work; that each person's efforts make a difference! The fact of our embedded-ness is inextricably linked with our responsibility and empowerment to participate in healing that which is broken.

Recognizing and responding to this dynamic is at the heart of Unitarian Universalist spirituality and identity. It is also an essential component of many of the world's wisdom traditions, whose prophets

draw attention to changes needed in order to be in alignment with God's will.

Religious communities have long been recognized as having an important role in Justice-making through: *social service* (charity), *social education* (consciousness raising), *social witness* (speaking "truth to power"), and *social action* (organized efforts on behalf of institutional/policy change).

While all are important, Unitarian Universalist activist Richard Gilbert calls *social witness* the "prophetic imperative" to which our religious communities are called and uniquely suited.

What do you think?

What does Justice look like?

(Try to 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 monthly resource flyer invites active engagement with each month's theme: listing recommended books and movies, quotes and questions. 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

JUSTICE JOURNALING

What definitions for "Justice" can you think of? Which one do you feel drawn to, and why?

Where and how is Justice made evident?

Is Justice subjective or objective?

Where is Justice lacking (in your life, in your community, in the world)?

What are the contributing factors to those injustices?

How is social justice different from or related to social service?

The sixth Principle mentions the goal of "justice for all". What would that look like?

How do your religious values help you stay attuned to (and contribute to) that goal?



Our lives
begin to end
the day we
become silent
about things
that matter.

The Reverend Dr.
Martin Luther King, Jr.

Quotes to ponder:

There are two ways of exerting one's strength: one is pushing down, the other is pulling up. Booker T. Washington

The noblest worship is to make yourself as good and as just as you can. Isocrates

You must be the change you wish to see in the world. Mohatmas Ghandi

The rain is famous for falling on the just and unjust alike, but if I had the management of such affairs I would rain softly and sweetly on the just, but if I caught a sample of the unjust out doors I would drown him. Mark Twain

We have before us the glorious opportunity to inject a new dimension of love into the veins of our civilization. Martin Luther King, Jr.

I am not interested in picking up crumbs of compassion thrown from the table of someone who considers himself my master. I want the full menu of rights. Bishop Desmond Tutu

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

MOVIES:

Crossing Arizona (NR)
12 Angry Men (NR)
Antz (G)
Amazing Grace (PG)
Ghandi (PG)
Avatar (PG-13)
The Incredibles (G)

BOOKS FOR ADULTS:

The Prophetic Imperative & How Much Do We Deserve?, Richard Gilbert
The Moral Landscape, Sam Harris
A Thousand Times More Fair, Kenji Yoshino
Common Fire, Beacon Press
Justice, Michael Sandal
The Little Book of Restorative Justice, Howard Zehr

Blessing the World, Rebecca Parker
Freedom, Amnesty International
Tikkun Olam, Rabbi Dorff
To Heal a Fractured World, Sacks

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN:

Click, Clack, Moo, Doreen Cronin
DC Superheroes
That's Not Fair, Carmen Tafolla
Delivering Justice, Haskins & Andrews

SONGS:

Better Way, Ben Harper
Get Up Stand Up, Bob Marley
Imagine, John Lennon
On Every Corner, Ani diFranco
Paper and Ink, Tracy Chapman
What's Going On, Marvin Gaye
Where is the Love, Black Eyed Peas

READINGS FROM THE SINGING THE LIVING TRADITION

HYMNAL: 637, 666, 576, 584, 661

NEXT MONTH'S THEME:

In **FEBRUARY** we explore LOVE in its various forms: love of self, love of other (ex.: parental love, brotherly/sisterly love, romantic love, etc.), love of beauty, freedom and justice, of community, country, world, and life! Look for next month's Resource Flyer and attend our Sunday services at 10:30 am (22900 Market St., Newhall, CA) on February 5th (a celebration of UUofSCV's tenth anniversary), February 12th, 19th, and 26th.

Have a poem, drawing, book or movie recommendation for next month's issue on "LOVE", 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.