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Summary of Sunday Services

10:30 AM

September 2: "Love's Labor — Lost and Found"

Lay Leader: April Fissell

Sometimes, it just takes a while. April Fissell and Jeanne Coats will discuss this in relation to their life choices, and pose some points to ponder.

September 9: 'Blessing of the Open Book'

Rev. Pratima Dharm

Rev. Pratima Dharm will lead the service at Monte Vista on 9th September and speak on the topic of knowledge and the significance of wisdom in our lives. Traditionally marking the blessing of the backpacks within Unitarian Universalism, at the beginning of the new church year, members and friends are encouraged to bring to the service a favorite book or another item that signifies the blessing of knowledge or wisdom to share during service!

September 16: Reflection: 'New Beginnings!'

Rev. Pratima Dharm

Rev. Pratima Dharm will lead the service at Monte Vista on the 16th of September and speak on how we can remain or be true to ourselves even as we move towards embracing new beginnings in our lives. This will mark the festival of 'Ganesh Chaturthi' on the Hindu calendar which celebrates our journeys into new beginnings, prosperity and wisdom!

September 23: Reflection: 'The Practice of the Spiritual Discipline of Fasting'

Rev. Pratima Dharm

The spiritual discipline of 'fasting' dates back to ancient times and is common to all religions of the world. Rev. Pratima Dharm will lead the service at Monte Vista on the 23rd of September and speak on the topic of fasting as necessary to centering us towards a greater wholeness.



Summary of Sunday Services

10:30 AM
(Continued)

September 30: CUUPS Fall Equinox Ritual: Passing Through the Mabon Portal

Lay Leader: Jeanne Coats

Join CUUPS as we celebrate the turning Wheel of the Year by symbolically passing through the Portal into the Dark Times



Rev. Pratima Dharm's Message

I arrived in Upland, CA on the 2nd of August and was not only faced with the intense heat of deep summer, but also the movers bringing my household goods the same day! The movers left late in the evening that day, with nearly 80 or so unopened cardboard boxes cramming my apartment space. There was hardly any room left to move in my apartment, so I began to open the boxes, empty them, then break them down and keep them carefully in the space outside my apartment door, far away from the common area and certainly away from my neighbor's space. I was also hoping to talk to my new neighbors. I even saw some of them pass my apartment door and surreptitiously enter their spaces before I had had a chance to introduce myself. Finding this a bit odd, I went back quickly to setting up my place. Before long, I received a call from the Maintenance office that some of my neighbors had complained about the cardboard boxes lying outside my door, and that I must remove them immediately. So, I ended up moving them all back into my apartment as there was barely enough space in the common trash area to dispose of them all at once. Every day, I disposed of a few boxes and other trash bags. By the end of the fourth day, most of my apartment was set up but the empty boxes remained undisposed.

Tired by then, I decided to take a break and was pleasantly surprised to get a call from Catherine Rowlee from Monte Vista who expressed an interest in using some of my empty cardboard boxes, since she was organizing her own home. Before she arrived, I cleared up the living room and put all the larger boxes and trash bags away from her view into my bedrooms. I was happy to receive my first guest in my new home, so we sat down and had tea and snacks and chatted for a while. But as she was getting ready to leave with a few of the smaller boxes she chose, her eyes fell upon the many opened boxes and trash bags that I had made a concerted effort to hide from her. After which, Catherine refused to leave. She insisted on helping me dispose of them. I was embarrassed, hesitant and grateful at the same time! I did not want her to know I needed help...but I really did! On her part, she totally ignored the look of uncertainty on my face and began grabbing and removing these boxes. So, we worked together

for the next hour or so until every last of those suckers was out of my space! Like a Trooper, Catherine only left after she had checked for the last time that no trash was left behind. Before long, Rajiv Chokshi learnt that I had brought furniture from Maryland for my office at Monte Vista. And he came the following day after work to help me load them into my car. And some he loaded into his car. Later several members of the Board waiting at Monte Vista, helped to unload them into my office.

The welcome and support that has followed in helping me settle in by many more members of Monte Vista in the days that have followed since (not to mention that Jeannie Coats did a special blessing for my office!), has touched me beyond words! The contrast between the welcome I have received by my immediate neighbors and by members of Monte Vista is obvious. Even the special plate decorated with colors of the Indian flag on my first day I led service at Monte Vista (on the 19th of August), was very thoughtfully and intentionally put together, to make me feel at home here. This is Monte Vista’s strength! The ability to deeply welcome and embrace others even when they walk through our doors for the very first time! I hope and pray that we will continue to be the welcoming and loving community that we are even in the years to come. And may I, as your new minister, be able to not only honor but also nurture this very quality of keeping our doors wide open for all who walk into and become a part of the Monte Vista Community. And, let us together co-create our ministry and change our world for the better one person and one issue at a time!

Love and Blessings,
Rev. Pratima Dharm



Cyndi Allaire

Presidents’ Message



Rajiv Chokshi

Dear Beloved CommUUnity,

Our first Sunday service with the MVUUC newly settled minister, Reverend Pratima Dharm, was a reason to celebrate. Her message included a vivid explanation of how one observation, one realization, can change the direction of a person's life. In this instance, her father witnessing the fall of a large crane shot by a member of his group of hunting friends turned him from hunting, altered his perceptions, and sent him on a trajectory to a new life for his family here, a continent away, a major step on Reverend Dharm's path to us.

We had a great turnout of congregation members, and several guests, and LOTS of smiles. Many contributed to the spread of treats that were enjoyed on the patio afterward which included a beautiful cake to welcome Reverend Dharm. A happy mood was pervasive. Reverend Dharm has brought a warm enthusiasm to her work in the ministry, engaging with the congregation and the myriad responsibilities of her calling.

Tremendous thanks are due Chris Sanchez, our treasurer and lay minister, for rising to the occasion two Sundays in a row this month to deliver meaningful, encouraging talks to our congregation.

Encouragement was at the root of his message, giving heart, pressing us toward bravery, moving from introspection to seeing the enormous societal issues confronting us, and taking action. He urged us to be our own "super heroes."

We now aim to strengthen our bonds of community and maintain the enthusiasm we have as we begin anew. We have much to look forward to, and much capacity to be of service to the larger community.

With Love and Solidarity,
Cyndi Allaire and Rajiv Chokshi

Board meetings are usually held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month; they are open meetings and visitors are welcome to attend. If you wish to speak to an issue, please contact one of the Board Co-Presidents at least one week in advance to be placed on the agenda.

Important Dates

1. September 22—Unbirthday Party

REflections



Our new Religious Exploration year begins on September 2, 2018. But the new year is not just for children and youth. We are also offering an array of educational programs for adults.

Learning is an ongoing process. One of our core theological beliefs as Unitarian Universalists is a commitment to personal spiritual growth. Spiritual growth finds its ways into many of our interactions here at Monte Vista. Aside from Sunday services, we directly nurture our spiritual growth through our Adult Exploration Programs.

The goals of this program are to help our members, friends, and wider community to:

- a. Deepen our Understanding of Unitarian Universalism
- b. Deepen our Spirituality
- c. Deepen our Awareness of Contemporary Issues

With this in mind, we strive to provide opportunities which will foster your own spiritual exploration, introduce you to others, deepen on-going relationships, and strengthen your involvement here at Monte Vista. We aspire to provide programs that enrich, educate, and empower through classes, small groups, special events, and workshops.

This year we plan to:

- Offer a 3-session humanism class, with the group potentially developing into an interest group that continues to meet
- Offer another course from the Northwest Earth Institute (previous course was "Menu for the Future").
- Continue small Group ministry circles.
- Sponsor the development of congregational interest groups.
- Continue to offer films and/or book discussion groups

In addition, Rev. Dharm will be offering some Saturday workshops on specific topics that are important to her.

If you have a specific interest that you would like explored through Adult Exploration, please feel free to contact me directly.

We are looking forward to involving many folks in our programs this year!

Faithfully Yours,
Amy Randall
Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration
Credentialed Associate

SAVE THE DATE!!!

NIGHT OF STARS

MVUUC ANNUAL GOODS AND SERVICES AUCTION

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 3, 2018

Doors open 5:00 PM

Our **Annual Goods and Services Auction** is an important fundraising event for MVUUC and always a fabulous dinner and party!

Your Auction Team is happy to announce that Claremont Canopy Caterers will once again provide another delightful meal during the Silent Auction. Both Silent and Live Auctions will offer amazing varieties of community-building fun.

COME AS THE STAR YOU ARE!!

Feel free to come as yourself or your favorite star of film, music, sport, history, etc.

NEW THIS YEAR—10% of funds raised will be given to refugee resettlement programs. If we make more than \$10,000 in this effort, 15% will be shared. Join in this **CommUUnity** action.

In September, look for updates in the weekly and Sunday announcements.

Chalice Lighter Grant

As Nick Von Glahn explained in the Annual Meeting on June 10, 2018 the Board of Trustees plans to apply for a Chalice Lighter Grant as soon as we once more have enough members contributing as Chalice Lighter supporters. In order to receive a grant, we must have 20% of members contributing in 3-4 yearly calls of \$20 per call. Currently only 18% of members are participating.

Please visit the page below and learn about all the good your help can provide for congregations in our Pacific Southwest District. You will also be helping our own congregation with fundraising for our growth.

Flyer with detailed description of Chalice Lighters:

<http://www.pswduua.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/CL-Flyer-2017.pdf>

Online Chalice Lighter Enrollment: (Be sure to enroll in the Pacific Southwest District’s program.)

<https://register.pwruua.org/chalice-lighter-enrolment/>

Thank you, *Maribel Dana*, slonirish@gmail.com

Social Justice Coordinating Committee News

Margaret Davis

The 45th annual Inland Valley Hope Partners **Walk for the Hungry and Homeless** is happening this month! It is a 5k walk that will begin at Claremont College Services near 1st Street and Mills Avenue on September 22. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. and the Walk begins at 9:00 am.

MVUUC has actively supported **IVHP** for many years with lots of us joining the Walk, Sunday collections of food and cash, Share the Plate offerings, and several regular volunteers working with IVHP's programs. Here are some of the wonderful services provided by Inland Valley Hope Partners:

Food Security

The Food Security Program helps some 4,000 no- and low-income residents of the Inland Valley access high-quality healthy food resources each month with 5 program centers located in Pomona, Ontario, San Dimas, Claremont, and South Pomona plus 2 once a month food distributions in Upland and Chino.

Rapid Re-housing

The Rapid Re-Housing Program quickly returns homeless families in San Bernardino County into safe and stable housing. Clients are provided short to medium-term rental assistance (up to six months) and wrap-around services.

Our House Shelter

The Our House Family Temporary Housing Program serves children and their parents, as well as single women. The program's goal is to move families and single women from homelessness into safe, stable, and affordable housing.

Pomona Farmers' Market

IVHP sponsors the year-round Pomona Valley Certified Farmers' Market to bring fresh, nutritious produce grown by local family farmers to residents of the Pomona Valley, specifically low-income families. The Market takes place every Saturday (rain or shine) at the corner of Pearl and Garey in Pomona from 7:30-11:30 a.m.

Amy's Farm

Since August of 2015, Inland Valley Hope Partners and Amy's Farm have collaborated to ensure that no-, very low-, and low-income families that IVHP serves have access to health-promoting, nutrient rich produce.



Gleaning Hope

Inland Valley Hope Partners sponsors the Gleaning Hope Program with the goal of bringing fresh, nutritious fruits and vegetables to the families we serve. This program pairs volunteers with local residents who wish to donate nutritious fruit from the trees in their yards.

Let's "walk our talk" on September 22nd at the Walk for the Hungry and Homeless with a great show of support for this worthy cause! You can walk, sponsor a walker, or both. Tune in for more information and see Teresia Santee, Kathy Mason, or Margaret Davis for details.



Wheel of the Year

A Pagan Perspective on the Seasons

Mabon, September 21

Well, here we are, back again to Mabon. It's hard to believe that this column has been in existence since 2011, when the first column was on Mabon. The Wheel of the Year is not only turning — it's spinning! Granted, sometimes life happened. My planned Pagan offering fell by the wayside, but the column has appeared at fairly regular Intervals, and this will be the 60th. I have enjoyed every turn!

That said, it might be time to give the Sabbats a rest for a while, and talk about other aspects of Paganism that are relevant. As I mentioned in my first article, if you have any questions which you would like me to answer, please ask. I will answer to the best of my ability, and will research any answers for which I need more information. I will either answer you in person, in this column, or both. Just let me know. For this month, just a quick overview of Mabon, then, next month, on to something else.

Mabon is the second of three traditional harvests: the wine harvest. It is a time of perfect balance, when day and night are equal, but now the energies of life flow toward darkness and repose. This is a time to give thanks for the gifts of Earth and Sun, without which we could not live. We give thanks for the bounty we have harvested for ourselves, our work, our relationships and our spiritual journeys. This is also a time we reflect upon those aspects of our lives that no longer serve our growth and happiness, and we let go of them so that we may continue to grow. We give thanks for the gifts the God and Goddess have given us.

The spiritual work is very real and important, but also let's remember the lusty culture from which Mabon sprang. The wine harvest was celebrated for good reason; wine was a most important element of the ancient diet, and the Mabon celebration lasted for days, unlike our meager, hour or two, modern version.

From the time that the grapes, and often apples, were brought in for crushing, until the new wine was safely stored, ample draughts of the last year's vintage were liberally consumed, making for a most exuberant celebration (and, I imagine for a few not-so-fine mornings after). The time for solemn ritual came at the end of the festival when libations of the new wine were poured in the vineyards, and prayers of gratitude were offered to the Gods.

Although life seems more complicated in these modern times, and the effort to pass into the dark times, while leaving our personal baggage behind, looks daunting; perhaps just sitting down with a glass (or two) of wine and contemplating our chosen path might restore a sense of balance that the Equinox asks us to embrace. I wish you all a blessed and serene Mabon.

Until next month, Blessed Be!
Jeanne Coats

MVUUC Calendar – September 2018

MVUUC Calendar, Founders' Room, Minister's Office, Patio / Outdoors, Room 1, Room 3, Room 8, Sanctuary Sep 2018 (Pacific Time - Los Angeles), Worship

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2 8:45am - Freethinkers 10:30am - "Love's Labor" 12pm - RE Council 2pm - African Drum	3 Labor Day	4	5 6pm - Personnel 6:30pm - Set Up - Clear 7pm - Finance 7:15pm - Meditation	6 6pm - Choir Set-up and 6pm - Worship and 7:30pm - Choir	7 10:15am - Staff	8 6pm - Small Group
9 8:30am - Men's 10:30am - Worship 12pm - COA Meeting @ 2pm - African Drum	10 6:30pm - Auction	11 10am - Book Group @	12 6:30pm - Board of	13 6pm - Choir Set-up and 6pm - Facilities 7:30pm - Choir	14 10:15am - Staff 6pm - Private @ 7pm - CUUPs Liquid 9pm - Private @	15
16 8:45am - Freethinkers 10:30am - Reflection: 12pm - Social Justice 2pm - African Drum	17	18	19 6:30pm - Set Up - Clear	20 6pm - Choir Set-up and 6pm - Membership 7:30pm - Choir	21 10:15am - Staff	22 10am - COA Sleepover 4:30pm - UnBirthday
23 COA Sleepover @ 10:30am - Reflection: 2pm - African Drum	24 6:30pm - Auction	25	26	27 4pm - Social Justice 6pm - Choir Set-up and 7:30pm - Choir	28 10:15am - Staff 6pm - Private @ 7pm - CUUPs Liquid 9pm - Private @	29
30 10:30am - CUUPS Fall 2pm - African Drum	1	2	3	4	5	6

GENERAL INFORMATION

Office Hours: Monday, Thursday, Friday - 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Telephone: 909-626-0520, Office email: officeadmin@montevistauu.org

Rev. Pratima Dharm - Thursday, Friday: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Office Administrator: Tricia French - Monday, Thursday, Friday: 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Bookkeeper: Tracy Batres - Monday, Tuesday: 12:30 - 4:30 PM
Facilities Assistant: Joyce Armenta - Tuesday, Friday: 6:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Membership

We encourage all inquiries about becoming part of this wonderful, warm and welcoming community.

For more information, please contact Elizabeth Meehan at 949-290-2615



Send newsletter articles to officeadmin@montevistauu.org by the 23rd of the month.



Monte Vista Unitarian Universalist Congregation
9185 Monte Vista Ave.
Montclair, CA 91763