

JULY / AUGUST
2012

UATL NEWSLETTER

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SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, CA
96158

*Our sanctuary & annex
is located at:
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11-2
WEDNESDAYS 10-2

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

VISIT US AT:

WWW.UNITYATTHELAKE.ORG

& ON FACEBOOK:
"UNITY AT THE LAKE"

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Message from our Spiritual Leader (by Hillary)

We went back to New York this past week for our retreat with ISIS (International Seminary for Interfaith Studies) and what a blessing it was. We have been initiated! We were told we are now ministers although we have to wait a year for the actual ordination to catch up with us. Hey, at least we've got a stole. It has been a rollercoaster year concerning the process of "us getting our minister's license". Usually I tell everyone to remember the journey and celebrate it rather than get so caught up only in the destination. I found myself having to remind myself of that pretty often. While I recognized the process and have had many deep insights and heart opening healings (I've shared a lot of them with you along the way, describing them "as being in the Mother's washing machine") it was still very difficult. I spent the year struggling with a mode of learning that is very hard for me because I am a very visual person. Communicating over email, yahoo groups and phone bridges was a challenge for someone who needs eye contact and heart connection and a live body to touch and be touched by. I got all of that this past weekend, and more.

My life is highlighted by milestones. This is definitely one of them for me. Some of our milestones are obvious to other people because they are familiar to all of us. Things like graduations, marriage and birth, buying a first house. Yet there are so many that can't readily be seen by others and they deserve recognition, too. Those are the ones that happen in our hearts and minds with a change of old thoughts and behaviors that bring more loving, peaceful and accepting ways of being in this world. You know those kinds of changes - the ones that seem to happen overnight and

yet we know they've taken our whole life of working on ourselves to get to that point, often with lots of hard work. It is REALLY REALLY important to celebrate these achievements - pat yourself on the back, or even yummiier, give yourself a hug and share with some loved ones who will take joy in it and truly celebrate with you!

What made it all so doable was that I included joy in the process. I had made an intention this year to reclaim joy and so all the hard work was cushioned within joy. Instead of slamming myself against the wall to break down the wall, as I have been wanting to do so often in the past, now I was slamming against a feather pillow. The act of the slam felt the same - until just before impact...and happily at impact there was an obvious distinct difference with joy along for the ride (all those feathers, alone, flying everywhere, created quite the enjoyable visual itself). So I for one shall remember this summer as the season of reclaimed joy. And if joy isn't a part of your life, now is a great time to cultivate it. It doesn't depend on having more time, money or love in your life. You don't have to wait until you've achieved a certain level of education or dreams fulfilled. You can make the intention to have it in your life even if looking at your life right now you can't figure out how that would happen (hint, it's already inside of you). So, lastly, but certainly not least, I'd like to acknowledge each and every one of you for making this journey with me. I couldn't have done it without you. Maybe you encouraged me, or contributed money for our schooling, or held me in prayer, or sent me a good thought. I am blessed by your support and confidence in me.

THE SANCTUARY

We're still getting back on our feet after spending more than we expected on the beautiful space. You can financially contribute to/support the continued unfolding of this amazing dream through the website or at Sunday service, earmarking your cash, check or credit card payment for "Building fund".

HONOR YOURSELF AND/OR SOMEONE YOU LOVE:

We received a \$10,000 interest-free loan to help fund the building of our new Sanctuary and Annex. In order to help repay this loan, we are offering the opportunity to adopt 1 or more chairs. For \$75/chair you can honor yourself and/or someone else ("in memory of"... "in celebration of"... "in gratitude for", etc.) and we will prominently display your words on a plaque on a sanctuary chair. You will be blessed with the knowing that you have contributed immensely to the manifestation of UATL's dreams.

So far, we have 72 chairs "adopted" and we're finally in the process of purchasing the commemorative name plates to place on the chairs. The order deadline for your plaque words is Sunday, JULY 8. We will place another order in a few months.

FAITH IN ACTION

We joyfully affirmed and celebrated our abundance thru tithing to the following during May/June, 2012:

*Robert Hanna *Sugar Pine Foundation *Unity Institute * Evans Family Garden *Gary Chapman *Silent Unity *Unity in the Community

Total of outgoing tithes for this period was \$1,148.00. Thank you, God!

As of 6/15/12, our bank balances are as follows:

~Bank of the West Checking: \$3,406.43 (covers everyday spending and bills)
~Bank of the West Savings (2012 Hands and Hearts for Christmas fund): \$169.60
~Everbank Checking (general reserve fund): \$10,190.07
~Ministerial Fund (within Everbank Checking): <\$0 (but thanks to your generosity, we're getting close to recouping the expenses for Hillary and Stew's 1st year of Interfaith Ministry studies)

DID YOU KNOW???

...YOU CAN LISTEN TO EACH WEEK'S LESSON ON THE WEB FOR FREE? IT'S TYPICALLY LOADED JUST HOURS AFTER SUNDAY SERVICE. THIS IS A GREAT WAY TO INTRODUCE FRIENDS TO THE UATL MESSAGE. JUST CLICK:

[HTTP://WWW.UNITYATTHELAKE.ORG/AUDIO.HTM](http://www.unityatthelake.org/audio.htm)

WANT MORE THAN THE LESSON? WANT TO HEAR THE PRAYERS, THE MEDITATION AND THE DELIGHTFUL MUSIC BY ONE VOICE? FOR THAT, YOU CAN PURCHASE A \$5 CD OF EACH WEEK'S SERVICE. ORDER FORMS IN THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY.

You can make donations (for regular tithes, building fund, Minister's Fund and Hands and Hearts) and purchase all of OneVoice's CDs, Stew and Hillary's meditation CD *Journeys to the Heart*, plus CDs of Sunday celebration services, directly from the website via PayPal or credit card.

SPECIAL EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

Labyrinth: Have you walked the labyrinth yet? It is so amazing and a true gift to our community. We will be having an official dedication sometime this month (stay tuned). We are currently creating a brochure to explain the process and building a stand to hold the brochures and a guest book. The bench on the deck will be moved to the labyrinth area and we will also be laying down mulch to make the walking much easier (less dirty and dusty). We are also considering putting the Peace Pole out there. A sign would be good to highlight it and next year maybe we'll have a water fountain, too. Any volunteers to create either one?



Pet Blessing and Ice Cream

Social: Saturday, July 21st

We invite you to bring your beloved 4-legged friends for a fun time in the sun with music and ice cream, too. Celebrate the amazing gift your pets are in your life by bringing them for a special blessing. A photo and certificate will help you remember the occasion. Love offerings accepted. 12-3pm

Community Events (non-Unity):

Workshop: "Soul Collage, a Personal Journey – Explore how Art can be Used as a Transformative Tool for Self-exploration." Come meet your inner muse; your spiritual creative guide. Held in a supportive, non-judgmental environment. Sat. July 14th, 10am-3pm, Annex. \$60/includes all supplies. Water, tea, coffee provided...pack a lunch. Contact Francesca Orozco-Imperial Winters dolphindakini@yahoo.com for info/to sign up (limited space).

ONGOING UATL EVENTS

Wednesdays, NOON-12:40: PRAYER/MEDITATION CIRCLE in the Annex. Every Wednesday we sit in the presence of Love and hold the high watch for ourselves and for everyone on our prayer slips ...please join us!

*Tuesdays and Fridays, NOON. Silent meditation in the chapel. If Wednesdays' prayer circle is too long, come and sit in silence for 5, 10 or 20 minutes. **Afterward, you're invited for some inspiring lunchtime conversation on our sunny deck with Hillary and Stew...bring your own lunch***

Beginning Wednesday, July 11th, we introduce, "Living from the Heart" for our Awakening Wednesdays. We'll be meeting at Regan Beach (either on the big lawn or under the trees by the exit), 6:30-8pm. We'll sit in satsang with a 15-20 minute meditation and see what comes through, either a topic that comes to us (Stew & Hillary) or a question that is alive in your heart. Love offering accepted.

It is with great excitement that we announce a 2012 new Prayer Chaplain Training.

If you are at all interested, please ask Hillary for a brochure with the training dates, talk to her for more information (talk to the current Prayer Chaplains as well) and mark your calendar for the mandatory Orientation. In order to accommodate everyone, there will be an orientation Sunday September 9th right after Sunday celebration and also Wednesday September 12th 6:50-8:50pm. Simply one of the best ways I know to help you live a more spirit-filled and inspired life!

12 POWER SUNDAY CELEBRATION SERVICES

~JULY 1ST: THE POWER OF UNDERSTANDING (WEAR GOLD)

~AUGUST 5TH: THE POWER OF WILL (WEAR SILVER)

~SEPTEMBER 2ND: THE POWER OF ORDER (WEAR DARK GREEN)

FROM THE COUNCIL

“GRATEFUL”

Life is one interesting rollercoaster isn't it? I do not know about you, but I find that I am so grateful after dodging that “bullet”, ending that “race”, meeting that deadline or accomplishing burning tasks; and at the end of the day, the stress just rolls off my shoulders. It really doesn't matter what the outcome was, did you take the “bullet”, did you win the race, and did you accomplish your goal? In the long run, who cares about the material outcome? Did you learn something through that journey? How did you treat people to get your project done? Did you stand in your truth, your integrity? I believe that is what matters most. How do you feel after the ride is over? Grateful? And what does this have to do with Unity or spirituality?



These are questions that I pose to you. We all are on this adventure called “life”. I strongly believe we are each captains of our own ship, but who is the navigator of our course? Family, friends, peers, fashion magazine, Wall Street or something a bit deeper- God, Allah, Great Spirit, Guardian angel? We all feel the pressures of time constraints with endless sources of communications, texting, emails, social networking etc. We are all pulled in many directions. I find my peace in Unity and my strength from those individuals I meet at Sunday Service, my “sisters” at our women's circle, our Unity Council Group as well as at all the ongoing interactions at our new sanctuary. Life is full, fun and challenging at times, but isn't it great to have a place to be still and be surrounded by love?

I am very grateful to you all for your dedication, care and commitment to making Unity at the Lake a wonderful part of my life. It is my place to release the pressures of life, be appreciative for the moment and be filled with the optimism of looking forward for the next beautiful sunrise. I am proud of our accomplishments as well as our continuous journey as an open spiritual community, who respects, celebrates and supports each other. Thank you for being my family.

Namasté, Paige

Jazz here with our newsletter article! I am so grateful to be a prayer chaplain. I just returned home from our Wednesday 12:00pm prayer circle. What a wonderful experience. I am so at peace and feel joy bubbling over for the chance to give and receive so much. I would like to remind everyone about this great blessing for our community and invite each of you to attend. After our 30 minutes of sitting in such a sacred place, I leave feeling refreshed and at ease, even during more challenging times in my life. I give thanks to Unity for providing such a great opportunity in our community.

Bless you, Jazz

PRAYER CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

YEP

Our Youth Empowerment program has gotten off to a great start in our new Sacred Space! Thank you so very much from our hearts to yours: Jaimie, Kathi O, Nancy N, Linda L, John F (and soon his wife, Kim), Jodene and her girls, Sarah, Kathy B, Ashley L, Audrey and Hillary, and yes, me, occasionally. And Dr. Stew.

"Conversations with God for Kids" from the website by Neale Donald Walsh, is our new curriculum. It is superb. Check it out at CWG for Parents.com...formerly cwg4kids.com. Either will get you there! You will be inspired.

You are walking as the light, as the light~as the light..you are walking as the light, as the light of God. You are walking as the love, as the love~as the love..you are walking as the love, as the love of God.

I don't know about you, but, for me this is one of the most beautiful & touching parts of my Sundays! We sing this to the children every single Sunday as they shine and exit the Sanctuary. It is an exceptionally powerful song. Think about it. I remember my first time back to Unity in 2007. I hadn't ever met Hillary or Stew. Hadn't been to Unity in a few years. When the entire congregation sang this to the children I got me some serious goosebumps. Thank you God. I AM in the right place at the right time

It's 2012 now. We still sing this each and every Sunday. Do we sing it to ourselves, too? During the week? Recently, I noticed I had been and it made me excited! We are all children of God, right? Children are like sponges. They take in every single thing they see and hear. Remember? As children we did, as well. Even when we don't think they are, or are aware they are, they are seeing and hearing everything. 24/7. "Children learn what they live"...

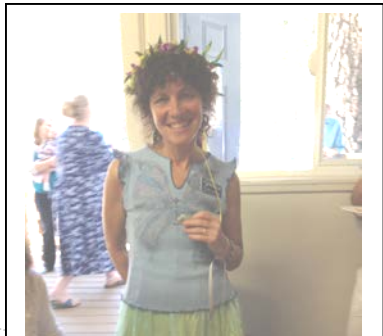
YEP!!!! Yay or nay? ;)

Peace, Love, Laughter and Blessings, Carol Z

Special thanks to (lots of folks to be grateful for...isn't that wonderful!?!):

Karen M and Sue Hoy for the new arrangement of our sanctuary curtains.

Kathy Bellairs and Lynn Spiker, Labyrinth amazons extraordinaire!



Also, Donna Hawksford and Karen Martin for planting the beautiful garden in front of our sanctuary and Cindy Archer for a lot of those plants (as well as keeping our bathrooms well supplied!)

And, each and every one of you at the potluck who added to the joy of Hillary's special day (including Carol Z for sending me on such a grand treasure hunt).



And, last but not least, our amazing, intrepid fundraising team, whose work on the Yard Sale was way above and beyond the call of duty (Kathi O, Donna H, Carol Z, Cindy A, Paige Rice and Nancy Nance). A huge heartfelt thank you to all of you who so generously donated stuff, time and energy (including those of you who shopped!) to make this a huge success.

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OF COURSE OUR SPIRITUAL LEADERS, HILLARY & STEW, ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE AND EAGER TO MEET WITH YOU (EXCEPT SUNDAYS OR MONDAYS, UNLESS IN AN EMERGENCY) DURING THE WEEK FOR SPIRITUAL COUNSELING AND/OR PRAYER, TO TALK OVER THE SUNDAY TALK OR UNITY PRINCIPLES... OR JUST TO CHAT. FEEL FREE TO CALL THE OFFICE ANYTIME AND MAKE A DATE WITH THEM. WE HAVE A LOVELY PLACE NOW TO SIT ON THE DECK AND VISIT!

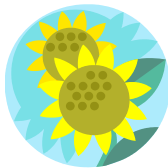
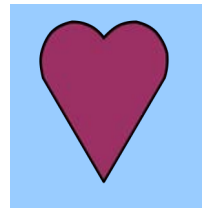
Hil & Stew in their new stoles – photo taken at their "Initiation Ceremony" during the ISIS retreat in NY, June 2012.

*It is with heartfelt gratitude and deep appreciation that we send **Isaac Mirzadegan** off to UCLA. Isaac has been part of our YEP program since he was 3 years old and has aided our teachers for the past 5 years. He has been a wonderful role model of peace and compassion for our children. We'll miss his gentle presence and his deep caring for our children and for this world.*

Knock 'em alive, Isaac!



P.O. Box 10742
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Sent with Love to:



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