

JANUARY -
FEBRUARY
2013

UATL NEWSLETTER



MAILING ADDRESS:
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SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, CA
96158

*Our sanctuary & annex
is located at:*
**1195 Rufus Allen Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA
96150**

OFFICE HOURS:
TUESDAYS & FRIDAYS
11-2
WEDNESDAYS 10-2

Office phone #
(530) 544-2266

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 Stew)

Happy New Year! Bless you all for helping to make my 2012 a beautiful trip around the sun. 2013 has a nice ring to it, too, and I have faith it will be a wonderful year of joy, growth and discovery for all of us.

Speaking of faith, at our recent Christmas Eve Celebration, Faith was the "most popular" of the 12 Powers, based on the number of stones taken. I don't remember that ever being the case before. Perhaps in light of recent national events, many of us have had our faith tested. We "birthed a new world" of peace and compassion on 12/12, and less than 36 hours later, events in Connecticut had many of us wondering what kind of monster we'd birthed. There is always renewed hope around the New Year, and yet it's hard to hold onto that when so many around the world and in our own community are dealing with some significant and real struggles on so many levels. As we look ahead to 2013 with the desire and intention to continue to nurture this new world we've birthed, knowing of course that it begins with each of us, faith might just be our greatest ally.

All the things we probably want in the world are already here. God is present—ALL of God is present—in every point of space, formed or unformed, within us and around us. This means that all the love, all the strength, all the wisdom, all the joy, all the abundance, all the healing and all the peace that exist in the Universe are present and active right where we are, right now! Faith is what allows us, not only to believe this, but to actually see it, perceive it, notice it and recognize it in ourselves, in others and in the world. As the Christmas Eve Faith script reads, "We stand at the gate of our own

unlimited experience of Life... we open the gate by calling forth our power of Faith." The "gate" is our own consciousness, and we call forth all those beautiful aspects of God we most deeply desire, for ourselves and for the world, when we align our consciousness with the Divine. This is the highest expression of our power of Faith.

Again from the Christmas Eve script: "To light the faith candle is to say that we are willing to look past the appearance of lack...or limitation...or difficulty and to focus instead on a divine idea like love...or wholeness... or abundance, and make it the foundation for our life." So, for me, instead of setting goals or making resolutions, I have intentions that are all based around putting more focus on these divine ideas. I recognize that the year will undoubtedly hold many surprises. I predict that some of my worldly goals will manifest and others won't. A lot of that is out of my control. But I know that as I hold to my intentions and give them more of my attention, I'll be more focused on that over which I DO have control—the only thing I can really control—my own responses, perceptions and attitudes. As I hold to this faith, I'm confident that one year from today, I will be able to say that 2013 was a fabulous year.

Will you join me? Will you resolve to focus on being just a little more loving, a little more joyful, a little more grateful or a little more kind each and every day? I hope so, because that would inspire me in my intentions. And together we'll continue to love this new baby we've birthed in ways that allow it (and ourselves) to flourish and thrive. Let's have the faith that we all have everything we need to do it. Together.

"...all the love, all the strength, all the wisdom, all the joy, all the abundance, all the healing and all the peace that exist in the Universe are present and active right where we are, right now!"



FAITH IN ACTION

If you would like a year-end receipt letter with your total contributions to UATL in 2012, suitable for the IRS, please let us know. This year we are only furnishing these letters upon request!

We joyfully affirmed and celebrated our abundance thru tithing to the following during November/December 2012:

- *Tahoe Turning Point
- *Tariq Khamisa Foundation
- *Unity Institute* Boys and Girls Club of SLT
- *American Red Cross Sandy Relief
- *West Central Region, Unity Worldwide Ministries
- *Unity in the Community

Total of outgoing tithes for this period was \$1975.02.

We were also able to make a special contribution of \$394.28 to Tahoe Youth and Family Services, which represents 10% of proceeds from Harvesting Our Dreams.

****Thank you, God!****

As of 1/2/13, our bank balances are as follows:

Bank of the West Checking: \$5722.98 (covers everyday spending and bills)

Bank of the West Savings (2012 Hands and Hearts for Christmas fund): \$69.66

Everbank Checking (general reserve fund): \$10,223.57



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 celebrations, directly **from the website via PayPal or credit card**. We can even automatically charge your credit card monthly for tithes if you choose.

DID YOU KNOW???

...YOU CAN LISTEN TO EACH WEEK'S LESSON ON THE WEB FOR FREE? IT'S TYPICALLY LOADED JUST HOURS AFTER SUNDAY CELEBRATION. THIS IS A WONDERFUL 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 CELEBRATION. ORDER FORMS IN THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY.

TELL YOUR FRIENDS!!

SPECIAL EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

Sunday January 27th

immediately following our Sunday Celebration. Although only members can vote, all are invited to gather as a spiritual community as we revisit the excitement of 2012 and share our vision on how to expand that in 2013. Your voice is important to us. Lunch will be provided.

Special Classes: These 2 classes are pre-requisites for membership, and, everyone is invited to attend...

****Basics of Unity:** Join Stew for a stimulating and inspiring 1-hour exploration into Unity's metaphysical Truth principles. Perfect for someone new to Unity or as a wonderful refresher.

**Sunday, February 3rd at 11:30am or
Monday, February 4th at 6:30pm.**

****Basics of Prayer:** Join Hillary and dive into Unity's approach to affirmative prayer. Perfect for beginning or deepening your personal conversation with the God of your own knowing.

**Sunday, February 24th at 11:30am or
Thursday, February 27th at 6:30pm.**

Vow Renewals: Thursday, Feb 14th. Make this Valentine's Day much more than just a Hallmark holiday. Renew your vows, renew your love...celebrate each other in a meaningful ceremony with Hillary & Stew, in our beautiful new sanctuary. ½- hour time slots available, family and friends are welcome. \$50 suggested love offering. Reservations required, call the office and reserve your spot now.

Movie Night: Last Friday of the month in the Sanctuary. We provide the popcorn. Love offering.
January 25th: The Way with Martin Sheen
February 29th: tba???

ONGOING UATL EVENTS

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

Tuesdays and Fridays, SILENT MEDITATION in the chapel (inside the Annex) at **NOON**. If Wednesday at noon is too long, or that day just doesn't fit into your schedule, or you just want a space to center and ground in Truth in the midst of your busy day, whether for 5 minutes or an hour, you are always welcome to sit in silence in the peace chapel.

Awakening Wednesdays, 6:30-8pm: We continue to meet in the Annex every Wednesday, 6:30-8pm, for meditation, heart-opening discussion and practical tools to bring the Sunday messages to life.
Beginning January 23rd, we launch an 8-week Class: "Compassionate Communication" based on the (Nonviolent Communication) work of Marshall Rosenberg. Are you looking for a way to make your life more wonderful? Discover what is alive and vital within you and how to communicate that to others in a way that is most likely to get your needs met. Learn how to listen to others in a way that fosters understanding and compassion for their needs. Putting the two together in a language of life can open the door to deeper connection and improved relationships in all areas of your life. It will be helpful, although not necessary, to have Rosenberg's book, "Nonviolent Communication, A Language of Life". We have 3 copies available at \$10.00 each.
Please register in advance by calling or emailing the office. Love offering



SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS

JANUARY 27TH:

**OUR 1-YEAR
ANNIVERSARY
IN THE NEW
SANCTUARY
CELEBRATION!**

FEBRUARY 3RD:

**12 POWERS
SUNDAY**

**THE POWER OF
STRENGTH
(WEAR SPRING
GREEN)**

MARCH 2ND:

**12 POWERS
SUNDAY**

**THE POWER OF
WISDOM
(WEAR YELLOW)**



WELCOME NEW PRAYER CHAPLAINS



*Unity at the Lake is proud to introduce **Jamie Kendek & Janice Eastburn** (who is returning after a few year hiatus) as our 2 newest Prayer Chaplains. You can look forward to them praying with you on Sundays as well as on monthly wellness calls. They join Karen Martin, Kristina Christianson, Alyson Hussmann, Jazz Christianson, Kathi Cross, Kathleen Harris and Ken Cross. We thank each of our PCs for the huge space they hold for UATL.*

What Membership Means:

When you hear reference to UATL members, this refers to voting members. According to our bylaws, the Council of Trustees exists to directly represent UATL's membership. Our members have been through an orientation process and have committed to the next level of commitment and involvement in UATL's activities and finances as well as in their own spiritual journeys. In addition to being able to vote at our annual membership meeting (for new members of our Council of Trustees, for example), members are eligible to be YEP teachers, Council of Trustees members, Prayer Chaplains and members of OneVoice. They also receive a monthly wellness call from one of our Prayer Chaplains.

To become a member, the first step is to fill out an "Intention for Membership" form (available at Sunday celebrations or by contacting us). Then, there are 2 introductory classes that are mandatory. The first is "Basics of Unity" and the second is "Basics of Prayer", both described elsewhere in this newsletter in the "Special Events and Happenings" section. We offer each class twice to make it easier for you to attend...you would only need to attend 1 of each class. If you have a conflict with either (or both), please speak to Hillary or Stew about alternate arrangements. Finally, there is a mandatory "New Member Orientation", which happens shortly after the Prayer class. Your decision to become a member needn't be made until the end of this Orientation. If you have any questions about any of this, you know where to find us!

Hearty Thank You's

Bob Prescott for showing up with his snow blower, which allowed us to get into our Sunday and special Christmas Celebrations, and for saying yes to keeping us clear the rest of this winter season

Mort Marley for adding his muscle to keeping our walkways consistently clear and safe (as well as for the million other things that need to get done and/or fixed) as well as the putting up the outside Christmas lights

Sue Hoy for making our Sanctuary look so beautiful inside and out for the Christmas holy-days...I hope you noticed all the pine cone decorations outside and the trees inside

Karen Martin for all the rest of the amazing decorations

The 28 of you who showed up to carol at Barton Skilled Nursing Facility

The 12 of you who braved freezing conditions to carol at Heavenly Village

Everyone who contributed to Hands & Hearts, allowing us to adopt 3 families and lavish \$1100 worth of Christmas memories on 11 kids

And last but not least, **Paige Rice and Peter Hussmann** for 3 years of dedicated service and love being on the Council of Trustees

You, for being you!

FROM THE COUNCIL

Wow, this past year just flew away so quickly. Happy New Year. I am very pleased to be on our Board of Trustees at Unity once again. Unity is truly our sanctuary of learning, loving-kindness and connection with all living things and this beautiful universe. My personal growth over the past years has been the greatest, ongoing trip in my life. Every day I feel closer to the connection that is growing within me.

Last night and again tonight I walked in the snow in the brightness of the full moon. In my heart I felt the love of the universe as all is just as it is. This unfolding miracle of nature and the realization of all being and living is connected as one - just as it is in each moment. My heart was actually feeling the love of all living things. The moon in its brightness filled my heart - just as the fire of the sun stimulates all being and living.

Connection with all is always present and it is best felt when all judgments are released. Everything is perfect just as it is if we can just release our desires for it to be something different. Love and connection come alive in us when we see that all is unfolding exactly as it is supposed to and stop wanting it to be a certain way.

May love and loving-kindness be the universal connection in your heart, just as the moon's brightness touches your very being and the sunlight warms your soul and asks you to grow.

As you awaken in this new year to your own beautiful miracle of connection to the universe - give gratitude to God. Let go and let God.

Take Care - Blessings

Love, Rita



BY RITA



"Connection
... is best
felt when all
judgments
are
released."

Hillary & Stew



OFFICE HOURS:

TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS 11-2

WEDNESDAYS 10-2

We'd love for you to come by and we can share some inspiring or cheerful conversation or just get to know each other better. If you come around lunch time Tuesday or Friday perhaps we can also break bread together. Of course, we 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, or to talk over the Sunday talk or Unity principles... Just give us a call!

HAVE YOU BEEN LOOKING FOR A WAY TO HELP?

That would be perfect, because we're looking for you, too!

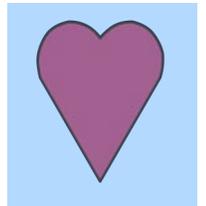
**We've created a "greeting team." Bless you and thank you to all who have stepped up to create a loving and welcoming space for our Sunday celebrations!

**We're also looking for:

- 1) an archivist to put our UATL memorabilia into scrapbooks. You can easily do this at home and we'll provide the materials. We are caught up thru 2011...everything is in order for 2012 and just needs to be put in the book
- 2) a librarian to organize our lending library



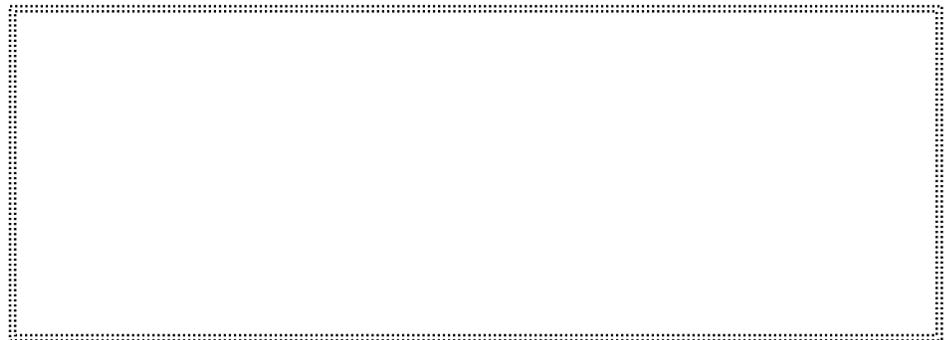
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Sent with Love to:



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unityatthelake@sbcglobal.net