



## Newsletter for July 2018

*July programs coordinated by Terry Crewse*

### **July 1      Remembering Ivan**

Today we will celebrate the life of our dear friend Ivan. This will be a time to share memories, sing some of his favorite songs, and read some of his favorite readings.

Hymn 318                  Reading 458                  Host: Terry C.

### **July 8      Tragedy Over the Grand Canyon**

On June 30, 1956, TWA flight 2 and United Airlines flight 718 collided over the Grand Canyon. Both planes crashed and there were no survivors. Terry will share the state of aviation at that time, the disaster itself, and the aftermath including the devastating effect it had on his family in that his grandfather and aunt were lost in the tragedy.

***Potluck - Bring a dish to share!***

Hymn 411                  Reading 720                  Hostess: Marilyn

### **July 15      More From *Uncle Tungsten* by Oliver Sacks**

We might have racked our brains last time over why water was first HO (not H<sub>2</sub>O), but Buzz will present more topics from this fascinating book from Oliver Sacks' childhood, including his love of Chemistry and other childhood experiences.

Hymn 19                  Readings 561 & 563                  Hostess: Joan Givan

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### **July Birthdays**

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Marion Gant	4 <sup>th</sup>
Allie Piersol	21 <sup>st</sup>
Edith LaVonn	26 <sup>th</sup>

Sunday Service is at 10:30 am.  
Coffee and visiting at 10:15 am

135 E. Harrison  
Porterville, CA 93257

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### **July 22 Arson, Murder, and Mystery on the High Seas**

In 1934, the S.S. Morro Castle was bringing its passengers home from Cuba when fire broke out in the early morning. After yet another round of “Never Again!” declarations, what can we learn from the history of this tragedy? Terry presents.

Hymn 412          Readings 696 & 699          Host: TBA

### **July 29 Magic and Deception for Fun and Profit**

Program in the psychology of perception and deception in America today. Uncle Bill will perform a little magic and explore the phenomenon of belief from Houdini to Fox news. Expect ideas from Frank Luntz, Noam Chomsky, Eric Hoffer, Joseph Goebbels, George Orwell, Rush Limbaugh, Mahatma Gandhi, and Donald Trump to be bandied about.

Hymn 149          Reading 468          Hostess: Merrily



This Unitarian Universalist community welcomes and celebrates the presence and participation of people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or queer.

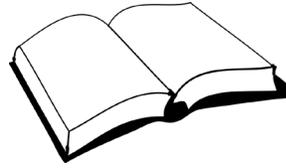
### **UU Monthly Board Meeting**

Meets Sunday, July 1, 12:00 p.m.  
(shortly following service)

President: Marilyn Pankey  
Vice-President: Merrily Davies  
Treasurer: Steve Summers  
Secretary: Marion Gant  
Social Justice: Joan Givan  
Program Coordinator: Terry Crewse  
Religious Education: Jen Piersol

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## Reading Groups



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### Wednesday Reading Group

The Wednesday reading group is currently searching for ideas for the next read. They are presently meeting at Sierra Hills every other Wednesday. Contact Marilyn for more information.

### Ralph's Reading Group

The group is meeting on June 29 to discuss *Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett. Also, there will be a discussion to decide when and what book will be next. Contact Ralph for more information.

ralphbourne@sbcglobal.com

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*Editor's Note: Please read the following pages for Eric Ball's remembrance of his father, Ivan.*

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### As a Unitarian Universalist congregation, we affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

# A Remembrance of Ivan Ball

By  
Eric Ball

The story of Ivan Ball is one of a lifelong journey, a quest for knowledge, ideas and exploring new places.

Ivan was what used to be described as a polymath, a person who is knowledgeable to an expert degree in a variety of subjects, often unrelated to each other. Ivan was a biblical scholar, taught world religions, and was an ordained minister with a Doctorate in Theology. Yet he was also very much a scientist, a mathematician, and a musician with an extensive knowledge of classical music and opera. He was an avid traveler and had set foot on every continent including Antarctica. He could discuss philosophy, art, religion, politics, music, and science with ease and was always reading and studying more about many subjects.

He was always a dreamer, planning the next big adventure whether it be a trip or in the restoration of the family ranch. Ivan's great-grandparents had bought the ranch in 1871 and it was there Ivan's father was born in 1883. His father had witnessed the building of the present house in 1893. It must have been quite something for the family to move from the old two room dirt floor house into the big new house. Ivan was raised in Los Angeles, but spent his summers on the ranch and grew to love the family home. He would help his Aunt Sue pick peaches and did many chores around the place. It was during these summer days that Ivan grew to love the ranch and hoped one day to live there.

Ivan met Ruth Jacoby at the Wesley Foundation while both were attending the University of California at Berkeley. They fell in love and were married on December 18th, 1955. They had two sons and two granddaughters.

By the 1980's the house needed work and Ivan and Ruth spent their summers doing a major project with each working to earn the money for the major renovation in 1993 when Ivan retired. Ivan then spent 25 years enjoying the dream that he and Ruth had worked so hard to realize.

Professionally, Ivan served nine Methodist churches, including two circuits arrangements. Ivan was very devoted to his congregations and would faithfully visit church members who were ill or shut in and helped families who grieved for loved ones. He conducted worship services with great warmth and dignity, putting great care into the music, hymns, and his sermons. His

sermons often touched upon the social issues of the day. Because of the structure of the Methodist church and its appointment system, Ivan and the family moved fairly frequently in the early days as that was the normal pattern for the denomination. Many, although not all, Methodist churches tended to view the minister as a hired hand and the lack of support from the denomination made being a minister very challenging. However, Ivan served each congregation faithfully and he and Ruth had several friends from a couple of congregations for many decades.

Retirement in 1993 brought Ivan to the Ball ranch that he and Ruth had restored. Here he attended the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship where he found a wonderful group of like-minded people who shared the thirst for knowledge and discussing a wide range of ideas. The UU Fellowship was at last the place where Ivan could discuss ideas and he felt the strength and support of a group of caring people. He was involved for many years with the book study group, played the recorder, sang in Sierra Vocal Arts for a number of seasons and was able to travel to the faraway places long dreamed of including Egypt, Israel, and Antarctica.

Ivan and Ruth took several camping holidays including driving to Alaska and Newfoundland. They had attended the San Francisco Opera for decades while they lived in the Bay Area and continued to see several operas each year in retirement. He tended to the new peach trees that he had planted as a continuation of his childhood in the 1930's and 40's.

The last few years brought diminished health and memory, but Ivan carried on and was able to spend his days at the beloved ranch.

The best way to remember Ivan is to carry on with his spirit of learning and discovery, both of ideas and journeys to new places. He could bring his vast knowledge and intellect and his caring and compassion about people and issues to an integrated viewpoint and he could express his thoughts with great articulation and insight. As we each continue to learn, we will be continuing Ivan's legacy.

– Eric Ball – June 25, 2018