

the Outlook

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Verdugo Hills

May 2014
Volume 19
Issue 5



Imagine a religion that embraces many different beliefs. Where all are accepted; Where we cherish the process of developing our own spiritual path; Where we respectfully support the paths of others.

Worship Service every Sunday at 10:30 AM

Children & Youth Religious Exploration Education class concurrent

May 4, 2014

“You Can’t Step in the Same River Twice”, Rev. Ken Collier
Change is inevitable. Nothing stands still. So what are you going to do about it?

Rev. Kenneth W. Collier is the retired minister of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Santa Barbara, where he lives with his wife Anne and Shih Tzu Bodhi. He has served churches on both coasts and is currently the District Ministerial Settlement Representative. After the service he will be with us to talk about the settlement process.

May 11, 2014

**“He Said – She Said; Communication Across Gender Lines”,
A stage reading directed by Rev. Betty and presented by the
Off-Foothill Players**

Come and see how communication can go awry when men and women try to understand each other. Scenes and readings by Jules Pfeiffer, James Thurber and others will entertain and challenge you.

May 18, 2014

**“Spiritual Traditions of Mongolia”, Bruce Hale,
International Sierra Club Leader, Guest Speaker**

Mongolia's spiritual traditions are rooted in the steppe tribes of ancient times, but still very much a part of modern Mongolia which include animism, shamanism, sky worship, and Buddhism.

May 25, 2014

“Memorial Daze”, Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford

On this Sunday before Memorial Day, perhaps it is a good time to look at what we want to honor and memorialize - in addition to our military heroes. For example, if we were going to bury a virtual time capsule for each of our lives and for our congregation, what would we include? That prospect could leave us somewhat dazed, but hopefully our combined wisdom will help us to find our foundation and a plan for the future.

**Unitarian Universalist Church
of the Verdugo Hills**

www.uuverdugo.org

4451 Dunsmore Avenue
La Crescenta, CA 91214

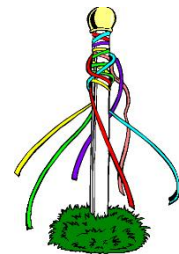
*Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford
&*

Deborah Rice, Ministerial Intern

Howard Richman, *President*
Gary Clark, *Vice-President*
Deane Phinney, *Secretary*
Alan Kleinsasser, *Treasurer*

818.248.3954
uucvh@uuverdugo.org

Office Hours:
Temporarily by appointment.



Our Mission Statement

*UUCVH is a growing and welcoming
community, offering a diverse
spiritual landscape for an informed
search for truth and meaning. We
promote social justice, work to affirm
the dignity of all people, and respect
the interdependent web of all
existence.*

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Dear Members and Friends,

We have a lot to be thankful for at UUCVH. We own our church building without a mortgage. We have a strong sense of community among our members and friends in both worship and other activities. We enjoy each other's company, and we have a variety of programs that people enjoy. We have recently been recognized as a Welcoming Congregation. And we are working to develop a new, comprehensive RE program. We also have a group of creative and committed people who support our congregation as both volunteers and financial contributors.

All of those assets are something to be proud of, and I commend you all for your dedication. But in the next year we will be embarking on a new venture. This congregation will be looking for a new full-time minister to serve the church when I leave you at the end of June in 2015. And that will require a unified dedication by the whole community as well as a greater financial commitment by everyone to fund this exciting opportunity.

So I am asking in this article that you strongly consider increasing your pledge to UUCVH for the year ahead. Or, if you have not given money to our church before, I would ask you to make this the year for your strong beginning as a pledger or regular contributor. This congregation is a very special place, and I hope you will join me in assuring its future as a positive force for those who follow us at UUCVH and for the larger community.

Blessings and thanks,
Rev. Betty



Your presence is important!
At our UUCVH
ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday, June 1, 2014
Following the luncheon

Crucial business will include:

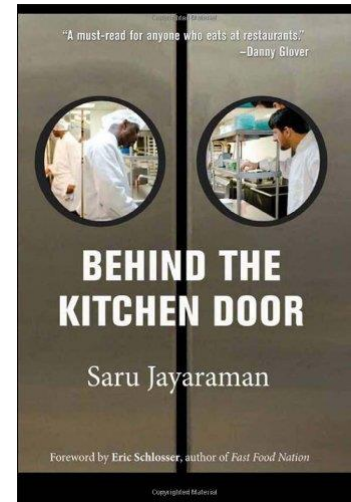
- Election of officers for 2014-15
- Election of Ministerial Search Committee
- Approval of a new by-law revision

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Remember to turn in your pledge card before Thursday, May 15

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Thanks,
Florence & the Pledge Drive Team



Tuesday, May 13, 7 – 9 pm
Adult Religious Education
Discussion “Behind the Kitchen Door” by Saru Jayaraman
facilitated by Rev. Betty
(Continuing May 20, 27 & June 3)

Blending personal narrative and investigative journalism, Jayaraman shows us that the quality of the food that arrives at our restaurant tables depends not only on the sourcing of the ingredients. Our meals benefit from the attention and skill of the people who chop, grill, sauté, and serve. *Behind the Kitchen Door* is a groundbreaking exploration of the political, economic, and moral implications of dining out

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

I would like to devote this column to information about our Church calling a new minister. Since Rev. Betty's contract is up the summer of 2015 and commuting from Thousand Oaks has been difficult, we will sadly be losing her and will need a new minister. The board has decided to have a nationwide search for a minister. There are many reasons for this choice among them is that we will be the only Church in southern California searching for a ministers during this period, so we will have a much larger group of minister to choose from. Another plus is that after the very cold winter in the rest of the country, our weather will be a great recruiting tool.

We will have Kenneth Collier to speak to the congregation at the Sunday service on May 4, 2014. He is a retired minister from the UU Church in Santa Barbara. He works for the UUA to help churches in southern California that are calling ministers. I believe he will give much better information than I will be able to give.

At this time the search committee is comprised of Deane Phinney, Jerry Buchanan and myself, but we need two more members. The Church needs your help in filling these two positions. The committee will be taking surveys of the membership to give prospective ministers a view of the congregation. We will also be putting together a PDF showing every aspect of our Church. The better job the committee does in putting together a true picture of our Church, the better chance we have of a good match. If you have questions, please e-mail me or save them for Kenneth Collier.

Howard Richman



WANTED:

The UUCVH Office needs a larger PC Desktop Flat Monitor.
20" - 26" size (measured on diagonal) preferred.
If you have a working monitor that you're not using,
please donate it to UUCVH!
Bring it in anytime during open hours.
Or, contact Terresa Jones at uucvh@uuverdugo.org

Thank you for helping us out!

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Remember to turn in your Pledge Card before Thursday, May 15

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Thanks,
Florence & the Pledge Drive Team



BUSINESS AT HAND

All Board & Chairs:
Start preparing your reports now
to submit for inclusion in the
Annual Report!

Your Report Submission Deadline
is Monday, May 19.

Our Annual UUCVH
Congregational Meeting is
Sunday, June 1, 2014.



GNU UUs

Join us for a fun
Dinner Meeting on
Monday, May 12, 5:30-7pm
at Frechicko Grill
3839 Foothill Blvd.,
La Crescenta.

AN INTERN'S INSPIRATION

Hi everyone,

This will be my last newsletter article before I break for the summer (my next article will be in September). I have greatly enjoyed my first half of a part-time internship with UUCVH! It takes a village to keep a congregation humming along, and I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to learn something about ministry from each person in the community. Thank you all for your willingness to share some of your wisdom and knowledge with me. I look forward to continuing my journey with you in September!

Over the summer I will be working on a CPE (clinical pastoral education) unit at Hoag Hospital in Orange County (the commute will be tough!). I will be engaged in experientially based "action-reflection" learning in which I will both minister to people and critically reflect on that ministry in consultation with supervisors, peers, and other professional colleagues. I will be tasked with ministering to patients, the families of those patients, and the medical center staff. The goal of the program is to increase competency as a pastoral care provider. As you can tell, this experience will be a crucial component in my ministerial formation. It sounds like it will be both tremendously rewarding and emotionally/spiritually draining at times. I want to be able to be actively present for the people I minister to and give them the support, compassion, and care they need (no small task, indeed!). I will need to take very good care of myself during this process so that I will be able to provide quality pastoral care for others. This will be difficult with my responsibilities and my packed schedule but I am committed to trying my best. I will let everyone know how it all worked out when I see you again.

In the meantime, I hope you all take good care of yourselves and each other this summer! If you have a moment, send me an email and let me know how you are doing. You will all be in my thoughts and prayers.

Peace and blessings,

Debbie

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Did we mention that your Pledge Cards are due by May 15? Send them in and be counted!

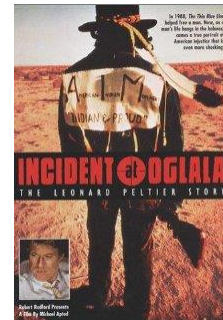
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Thanks,
Florence & the Pledge Drive Team

Movie Night

Hosted by Paula Hallowell
Thursday, May 15, 6:30 pm

"Incident at Oglala:
The Leonard Peltier Story"
1992, PG, 90 minutes



Narrated by Robert Redford, this provocative documentary chronicles the controversial events surrounding the shooting of two FBI agents on South Dakota's Pine Ridge Reservation in 1975, resulting in the conviction of Sioux activist Leonard Peltier. Featuring reenactments and interviews with key players in the incident, the film offers evidence that the government's prosecution of Peltier was unjust and politically motivated.

Here is a Roger Ebert Review to read more details about the "incident".
www.rogerebert.com/reviews/incident-at-oglaala-1992

IN MEMORIAM

Jeanne Akerley

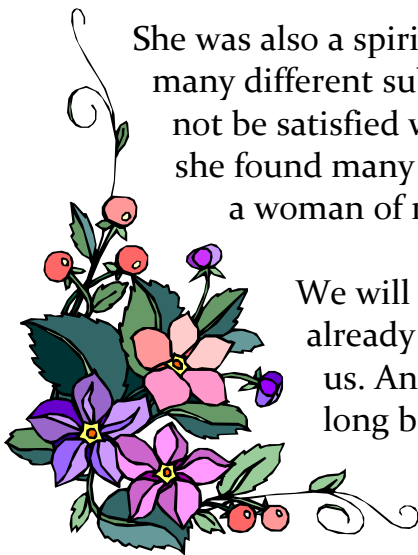


Jeanne began working for us as our office manager and later administrator four years ago and was taken from us by her sudden and unexpected death on April 16. But that statement doesn't even come close to describing the person we knew and loved or the many ways she touched our lives at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Verdugo Hills. She was a participant in many of the activities in our congregation and enjoyed planning and attending social gatherings, concerts, and other fun events with us.



We knew her as a dedicated Mother and Grandmother and a person who loved to celebrate events with her children and grandchildren. She also loved to go with groups on educational trips to local places. Certainly, we knew her as a dedicated worker, far above and beyond our expectations, keeping us on track with her gentle, but forceful, direction. And she always seemed to be taking care of the needs of others before herself, particularly the less fortunate in our community

She was also a spiritual and intellectual explorer, eager to learn all she could about many different subjects. She could be counted on to ask probing questions and not be satisfied with simple answers. The internet was her friend, a place where she found many intriguing ideas and funny videos to share with friends. She was a woman of many interests and talents.



We will miss Jeanne's warm and welcoming personality and have already begun share with each other what an amazing gift she was to us. And we know that her inspiring ways of being in the world will live long beyond her time with us. May it be so for her sake and for ours.

Digest of UUCVH BOARD MEETING MINUTES

4-16-14

Religious Exploration Education: Sandy Goodwick reported that the committee is working on a new job description for a Religious Education Coordinator. When the job description is completed the position will be advertised.

Welcoming Congregation: Howard shared a letter from Alex Kapitan, Program Coordinator of Multicultural Growth and Witness from the UUA., informing us that our application to become a Welcoming Congregation had been approved.

Sanctuary Painting: Bids are being solicited for painting the sanctuary.

District Assembly: The PSWD District Assembly will be held April 25 – 27 in San Diego. It was M/S/C that Sandy and Howard be our delegates with Tom Stapleford as alternate.

General Assembly: Delegates to GA will be selected at the next board meeting.

Ministerial Search: Howard is reaching out to members to explore their interest in becoming members of the Search Committee. Committee members will be voted in at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 1. 2014.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 21, 2014 at 7:00pm.

Deane Phinney, Secretary



May 15, 1961

The American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America consolidated to form the Unitarian Universalist Association. The two denominations had worked jointly on the publication of curricula for their religious education programs since the 1920s.

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Remember to turn in your
pledge card before Thursday,
May 15
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Thanks,
Florence & the Pledge Drive
Team



VOLUNTEERS ESSENTIAL

Those who can... do.
Those who can do it better...
TEACH!

Share a child's curiosity and volunteer to teach the children on Sunday mornings! We've taken care of the prep work for you with simple pre-planned lessons. Be ready to welcome visiting families and to share the lesson when children are dismissed. You can take the lesson home a week earlier. Sign up in Fellowship Hall during Coffee Hour.

THANK YOU!
Contact Sandy Goodwick

May 2014 at UUCVH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <i>Beltane</i>	2	3
4 Worship Service 10:30 am: "You Can't Step in the Same River Twice", Rev. Ken Collier Potluck Luncheon, noon	5 <i>Cinco de Mayo</i> Knitting Circle, 7 pm	6 <i>National Teacher's Day</i>	7	8	9 Women's Potluck Luncheon, 11:30 am Aesthetics Committee following luncheon	10
11 <i>Mother's Day</i> Worship Service 10:30 am "He Said – She Said" directed by Rev. Dr Betty Stapleford Internship Committee, 12:30 pm	12 GnuUU Dinner at Frechicko Grill, 5:30 – 7 pm Membership Committee 7:30 pm	13 Adult RE "Behind the Kitchen Door" with Rev. Betty 7-9 pm (1 st of 4 classes)	14 <i>Full Moon/Flower Moon</i>	15 Pledge Cards due! UUCVH Meditation Group, 7 pm (Contact Rev. Betty for info) Movie Night: "Incident at Oglala 6:30 pm	16	17
18 Worship Service 10:30 am "Spiritual Traditions of Mongolia" with Bruce Hale Social Action Circle, noon Spiritual Explorers Meeting, 12:30 - 2 pm	19 Annual Report Submission Deadline!	20 Adult RE "Behind the Kitchen Door" with Rev. Betty 7-9 pm (2 nd of 4 classes)	21 Board Meeting 7 pm	22 Outlook Newsletter Deadline!	23	24
25 Worship Service 10:30 am "Memorial Daze", Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford Shared Ministry Team, 12:30-2pm	26 <i>Memorial Day</i>	27 Adult RE "Behind the Kitchen Door" with Rev. Betty 7-9 pm (3 rd of 4 classes)	28	29 Committee on Ministry, 7:30-9pm	30	31

Save the date!

May 4	Potluck Luncheon, noon
May 5	Knitting Circle, 7 pm
May 6	National Teacher's Day
May 9	Women's Potluck Luncheon, 11:30 am Aesthetics Committee following luncheon
May 11	Mother's Day Internship Committee, 12:30 pm
May 12	GnuUU Dinner Meeting at Frechicko Grill in La Crescenta, 5:30 - 7 pm Membership Committee 7:30 pm
May 13	Movie Night: "Incident at Oglala", 6:30 pm
May 13	Adult R E "Behind the Kitchen Door" with Rev Betty, 7 - 9 pm (Continuing May 20, 27 and June 3)
May 15	Pledge Cards due! Meditation Group, 7 pm (Contact Rev. Betty for info)
May 18	Social Action Circle, noon Spiritual Explorers Meeting, 12:30 - 2 pm
May 19	Annual Report Deadline
May 21	Board Meeting, 7 pm
May. 22	Outlook Newsletter Deadline
May 25	Shared Ministry Team, 12:30 - 2 pm
May 26	Memorial Day
May 29	Committee on Ministry meeting, 7:30 - 9 pm

the Outlook

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