

the Outlook

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Verdugo Hills

July 2014
Volume 19
Issue 7



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.

A Month of Sundays

10:30 AM

Child & Youth Religious Education class concurrent

July 6, 2014

“Independence Day: Musings on Transformation, Resurrection, and Personal Sovereignty” by Joan DeArtemis, Guest Speaker

For most of us, the Fourth of July is a day of flags and fireworks, family, friends, and fun. However, for the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence and their families and friends, the day was not so lighthearted. The drafting and signing of this document was an act of treason, and could have had devastating consequences. It was a “moment of truth,” a pivotal instant of change. Once written, signed, and distributed, there was no going back. Let us celebrate this act of courage, as well as the times in our own lives when we have made life changing decisions.

July 13, 2014

“Holding On and Letting Go” by Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford

As I enter my last year of ministry with this blessed community, it is not surprising that I would be thinking about the things I want to hold on to and the things I need to let go. And the same thing is true of the new fiscal year for our congregation. This service will help us look at what we want to keep and what we need discard. Please join us for these vital questions. Your voice is important.

July 20, 2014

TBA (To Be Announced, not the Tundra Buggy Adventure)

July 27, 2014

“The Devil Made Me Do It” by Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford

We have all heard various admonitions about punishment for wrongdoing and the judgement that some believe is meted out in the afterlife. But where did those ideas come from and how do we deal with them as Unitarian Universalists? After all, why are we led to do good if not by the fear of retribution? Our Universalist forebears seemed more clear about these questions. So maybe it’s time we caught up.

**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

*Ann Kleinsasser, President
Linda Hunt, Vice-President
Deane Phinney, Secretary
Gary Clark, Treasurer
Teresa Jones, Administrator*

818.248.3954

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Office Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday,

10am-12pm

**And by appointment,
please call or email.**



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

Recently, I caught myself humming a tune that I remembered from long ago. It was "Summertime" composed by George and Ira Gershwin for the opera Porgy and Bess. And it brought back fond memories of summer days in rural South Carolina on my grandparents' farm- long before I had a real understanding of the racial inequities of that place.

The lyrics are:

"Summertime - and the livin' is easy.
Fish are jumpin', and the cotton is high.
Oh, your daddy's rich, and your mamma's good lookin'.
So hush little baby. Don't you cry.
One of these mornings, you're going to rise up singing.
Then you'll spread your wings, and you'll take to the sky.
But until that morning,
there's a'nothing can harm you with your daddy and
mammy standing by.
Summertime - and the livin' is easy.
Fish are jumpin', and the cotton is high.
Your daddy's rich, and your mamma's good lookin'.
So hush little baby. Don't you cry."

The words speak of an idyllic time when everyone is safe and secure. Unfortunately, that is not the case for many people in our world today - particularly those of color. So I believe we must work with others to create a place where all people can find the "justice, equity, and compassion" affirmed in our Unitarian Universalist Principles. With that goal in mind, I hope that during the summer, and throughout the year, we will find all the ways we can to make our communities and our world a better place for all. May it be so.

Love and Blessings,
Rev. Betty

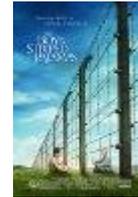


Rev. Betty and Tom will be at the UU General Assembly in Rhode Island and in Delaware with their family from June 23 through July 7.

In case of serious emergencies requiring a minister, please call the UUCVH Office for coverage. You may also call Rev. Betty on her cell or a member of the Shared Ministry Team for less immediate or serious needs.

Movie Night

Hosted by Paula Hallowell
Friday, July 25
6:30 pm at UUCVH
FREE Admission & Popcorn!



The Boy in Striped Pajamas 2008 93 min.

A story of innocence in a world of ignorance.

Set during World War II, a story seen through the innocent eyes of Bruno, the eight-year-old son of the commandant at a concentration camp, whose forbidden friendship with a Jewish boy on the other side of the camp fence has startling and unexpected consequences.



GNU UUs

Dinner Meeting on
Monday, July 14
5:30-7pm
at My Thai Restaurant
8654 Foothill Blvd #A
Sunland, CA 91040

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

How did you become a Unitarian Universalist? Are there others who may find us in the same way you did?

I was lucky enough to be brought up as a Unitarian, so I did not need to “discover” this faith as many of our members have done. But no matter how we each found our way here, I think it feels like “home” to all of us. As I begin my first term as President of our congregation I would like for us to think about ways to help potential UUs in our community find us. How can we be more visible to neighbors, to people searching for a spiritual home, to families looking for a unique religious foundation for their children? Think about your own path to our door—how can we make that path available to others in our community? Let me know your thoughts!

Looking ahead on our calendar, I'd like to encourage all of you to plan on attending Roy Zimmerman's concert on the evening of Tuesday, August 12! And be thinking of friends who would enjoy a wonderfully entertaining evening of his clever and humorous satire and fabulous music. If we each brought just two or three friends we'd have the full house he deserves!

I hope summer finds you doing enjoyable and fulfilling things, whether it is traveling to exotic places, pursuing a favorite hobby, volunteering or simply enjoying our beautiful Southern California weather in your own backyard or garden. Whatever your plans, I hope to see you on Sunday mornings (when you are in town) as we gather in community and fellowship for spiritual inspiration and growth.

Ann Kleinsasser



Meditation Group

**Wednesday, July 9
7:00 pm at UUCVH**

All are welcome! Bring a short inspirational reading to share.



Shared Ministry Team Sunday, July 27 12:30 – 2 pm at UUCVH

Have you ever needed someone to talk to in confidence about things going on in your life – nothing major, just something that is creating a problem for you? The Shared Ministry Team at UUCVH is ready to help with pastoral care. The members of the team are: Jerry Buchanan, Celia Eiben, Linda Hunt, Deane Phinney, and David Tyner - under the supervision of Rev. Betty.

For more complicated issues, you may wish to contact Rev. Betty directly on her cell to schedule an appointment for pastoral counseling. We all want to support you in living a more abundant life.



Spiritual Explorers Meeting at UUCVH Sunday, July 20 12:30 – 2:00 pm

BITS FROM THE BOARD

6 -18 -14

Facilities: Howard announced that interior painting of the church will begin Monday, July 7.

Boy Scout Eagle Project: Dustin Hunt presented his proposal for a Boy Scout Eagle project for board consideration. The project would entail clearing and upgrading the gated areas on the west and south sides of the church so that they could be used to greater advantage in the future. It was M/S/C to accept the proposal.

Ministerial Ordination: Rev. Betty shared information about plans for the ordination ceremony for Summer Albayati-Krikeche that will be held at UUCVH at 4pm on September 28 and jointly hosted by UUCVH and UU Fellowship of Kern County.

RE Director: Ann Kleinsasser announced that a candidate had been interviewed for the position of RE Director for UUCVH.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 16, 2014 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deane Phinney, Secretary



“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.”

--from A Return to Love, by Marianne Williamson.



Sunday, July 6

after Fellowship Time &
Coffee Hour at UUCVH

Lend your helping-hands to move tables, remove wall hangings, etc. to prepare our Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary to be beautifully painted on Monday, July 7.

Thank you!
Paula



GnuUU Potluck Picnic

Saturday, July 26

5 to 8 p.m.

Crescenta Valley Community
Regional Park
3901 Dunsmore Avenue
(corner of Honolulu)
La Crescenta, CA 91214

Don't miss this occasion to join members & friends of UUCVH for a picnic in the park. Bring food and good conversation to share. Non-alcoholic beverages, paper goods and eating utensils will be provided. You may also bring other beverages, musical instruments, and/or games for fun and frolic. See you there!

**Summer Fun Reservations
are still available at**

Camp de Benneville Pines

Register and get all the details at www.uucamp.org

41750 Jenks Lake Rd W
Angelus Oaks, CA 92305-9789
909-794-1252

- Junior High Summer Camp
Sunday, July 6 – Saturday, July 12, 2014
Dean: Kathleen Kaun Moscato
“The Circles that Connect Us”
- Senior High Summer Camp
Sunday, July 13 – Saturday, July 19, 2014
Adult Deans: Geoff Anderla & Emyrs Staton
Youth Deans: Patti Buck & Carolyn Kravitz
“TrUUth or Dare”
- Family Summer Camp
Sunday, July 20 – Saturday, July 26, 2014
Dean: Amy Brunell
“Learning to Love Better”
- PSWIRL's Summer Camp for Grownups
Sunday, August 10 - Thursday, August 14, 2014
- Landscape Photography Camp
Sunday, August 10 - Thursday, August 14, 2014
- Summer Art Camp 8
Sunday, August 10 - Thursday, August 14, 2014
- Gospel in the Pines
Sunday, August 10 - Thursday, August 14, 2014
- Summer Rendezvous
Homeschooling Families
Monday, August 25 - Thursday, August 28, 2014
- Yoga and Wellness Camp
Friday, September 5 - Sunday, September 7, 2014



Whether you're at home relaxing or traveling and adventuring, remember to gather a small container of water. Our UUCVH Ingathering Water Ceremony is in September and we look forward to hearing about how your source of water is meaningful to you!



For Bridged Young Adults

You always have a home in UUCVH and the UU faith. Wherever life takes you, you can find a loving spiritual community that can welcome you with open arms.

**The Hub: Young Adult UUs
at
[facebook.com/HubYAAU](https://www.facebook.com/HubYAAU)**

Provides opportunities for young adults to connect and share. Frequently updated and features our most recent resources as well as posts from young adults and young adult community leaders. Also shares tools for young adults to congregate and create connections and vibrant ministry.

July 31 at Sundown Lughnasadh and Lammas begin

What's the difference?

For those who celebrate the First Harvest...



Lughnasadh:

In Irish mythology, the Lughnasadh festival is said to have been begun by the god Lugh as a funeral feast and athletic competition in commemoration of his foster mother Tailtiu.

Lammas:

In some English-speaking countries in the Northern Hemisphere August 1 is Lammas Day, the festival of the wheat harvest, and is the first harvest festival of the year.



Lughnasadh is an Irish holiday and Lammas is an Anglo-Saxon holiday. Lughnasadh was celebrated mostly in Ireland but Lammas spread through out the lands. Lammas can be found in England, Scotland, Wales, and yes even Ireland! All of these countries are right smack next to each other. So, it's not very hard for their culture and celebrations to blend a bit.

Though Lughnasadh marks the start of the harvest season it is also a celebration of the sacrifice Tailtiu made by giving her very life to clear the stones from the field so that the people would be able to live. Lammas on the other hand is the celebration of the harvest itself, having enough food to survive and revel in that survival.

The Outlook Newsletter
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*Oh No!
Where's my UUCVH Outlook?*



In order to receive, or continue receiving, the monthly *Outlook* Newsletter,
we need to add you to our new database.
Please check the box(es) & fill out form below.



**IMPORTANT: Cut here and return this form to UUCVH
by Monday, July 21 to receive your August edition of the *Outlook*.**

1. How to respond? Choose one...

- ⊕ Drop it off at the office or slide under door during off hours
- ⊕ Put it in the basket on Sunday morning
- ⊕ Email your info to uucvh@uuverdugo.org
- ⊕ Call us at 818.248.3954 to provide your info
- ⊕ Mail it to us: UUCVH
4451 Dunsmore Ave.
La Crescenta, CA 91214

2. Check one or both boxes below.

I want to receive my *Outlook* Newsletter by email.
My email address is (please print clearly):

I want to receive my *Outlook* Newsletter by US Postal mail.
My mailing address is (please print clearly):

3. You're done. Thank you!

July 7, 1861
Birthday of Nettie Maria Stevens, Unitarian

This pioneering cytologist was born in Cavandish VT, but moved to Westford MA as a young girl and graduated from Westford Academy in 1880. Westford church records show that she joined First Parish, Unitarian in 1889. She served locally as teacher and librarian until, at 35, she went to Stanford University for a Masters in Biology and on to Bryn Mawr for her PhD. She was a member of Bryn Mawr's biology department for the rest of her life, lecturing and writing widely. While studying beetles in 1905, Dr. Stevens discovered the difference between the male XY and the female XX chromosomes and was the first to publish this ground-breaking observation. She was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1994.



July 12 at 5:25 am
Full Moon reaches its peak of power.

Space intentionally blank.

July 2014 at UUCVH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i>	5
6 Message 10:30am "Independence Day", Joan DeArtemis, Guest Speake Potluck Luncheon, Noon All Hands help prep for Painters tomorrow!	7 Painting Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall Knitting Circle, 7 pm	8	9 Meditation Group 7pm	10	11 Women's Group Potluck Luncheon, 11:30 am Aesthetics Committee following luncheon	12 <i>Full Moon</i>
13 Message 10:30am "Holding On & Letting Go", Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford	14 La Crescenta Sherriff's Clergy Support Group, 11am GNU UU Dinner, My Thai Restaurant 5:30pm Membership Committee 7:30pm	15 <i>National Ice Cream Day</i>	16 Board Meeting 7pm	17	18 <i>Outlook</i> Newsletter Deadline!	19
20 Message 10:30am, TBA Social Action Circle, Noon Spiritual Explorers 12:30pm	21 Committee on Ministry 7:30pm Deadline to respond for <i>Outlook</i> Newsletter Supscription preferences!	22	23	24	25 Movie Night: "Boy In Striped Pajamas" 6:30pm	26 Gnu UU Potluck Picnic at CV Park, 5pm
27 Message 10:30am "The Devil Made Me Do It", Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford Shared Ministry Team 12:30pm	28	29	30	31 <i>Lughnasadh & Lammas Harvest Celebrations begin at Sundown</i>	August 1	2

Save the date!

- July 1 Mercury Retrograde ends
- July 4 Independence Day
- July 6 First Sunday Potluck Lunch, Noon
- July 7 Professional painting begins at UUCVH
- July 7 Knitting Circle, 7pm
- July 9 Meditation Group, 7pm
- July 11 Women's Potluck Luncheon, 11:30am
- July 11 Aesthetics Committee 12:30pm
- July 14 La Crescenta Sheriff's Clergy Support Group, 11am
- July 14 GnuUU meeting, My Thai Restaurant, 5:30pm
- July 14 Membership Committee, 7:30pm
- July 16 Board Meeting, 7pm
- July 18 Outlook Newsletter Deadline
- July 20 Spiritual Explorers Meeting, 12:30pm
- July 20 Social Action Circle, Noon
- July 21 Committee on Ministry, 7:30pm
- July 25 Movie Night "Boy in Striped Pajamas" 6:30pm
- July 26 GnuUU Potluck Picnic at CV Park, 5pm
- July 27 Shared Ministry Team, 12:30pm
- July 31 First Harvest Celebrations begin at Sundown



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