

the Outlook

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Verdugo Hills
4451 Dunsmore Avenue, La Crescenta, CA 91214
www.uuverdugo.org



August 2014
Volume 19, Issue 8

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

10:30 AM

Child & Youth Religious Education class concurrent

August 3, 2014 “Radical Hospitality,” Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford

Growing up, we learned that we were not to talk with strangers and to be wary of those people whom we did not know. But we are adults now, and many of us are still holding on to those notions. Maybe it is time for us to look at the ways in which we can welcome strangers in our lives and in our community. Indeed, we could find a world of opportunities for growth and enlightenment.

August 10, 2014 “Advice from a CHALICE,” Maggie Yenoki

The folks at *Your True Nature* have some advice for us [www.yourtruenature.com]. The nuggets they share come from many diverse sources such as: a bear, the earth, and many more! In this service, we will explore some of the wisdom and advice available to us from our own UU Chalice!

August 17, 2014 “Will We Be the Ones Left Behind?” Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford

Many of us have probably heard about the “Left Behind” series of books and wondered about the apocalypse, foretold in the biblical book of “Revelation.” But what do those things have to do with us as Unitarian Universalists? On this Sunday we will look at the ideas of the “last days” through the eyes of Dr. Elaine Pagels and Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker, former president of our UU seminary in Berkley, and what insights their scholarship may provide.

August 24, 2014 “Seeds and Eggs,” Eileen Maurer

Given the scale of the universe, the earth isn’t much bigger than a grain of sand, but like seeds and eggs, it too carried everything necessary to start life, sustain evolution and reproduce future generations. How would our behavior change if humans viewed the earth as a single organism? What if we stopped thinking of ourselves as billions of disconnected individuals on separate trajectories and realized that we are living cells inexorably linked together, all dependent on the common fate of the earth and its living creatures?

August 31, 2014 “Challenge Is Opportunity - The Art of Resiliency,” Sam Morris

Sam Morris is the founder of Zen Warrior Training®, a personal development program dedicated to helping people to achieve self-mastery. In 1999, Sam was the victim of a car accident caused by a drunk driver which left him permanently paralyzed from the waist down. In the years following his injury, Sam spent thousands of hours working on his healing, studying and practicing a variety of movement and meditation modalities. Through these practices, Sam developed a profound awareness of the capacity of the human mind and body to develop resiliency and to turn challenges into opportunities for greater personal depth. In Sam’s presentation, he will describe the seven values he teaches his clients to help them to develop a stronger relationship with their authentic power.

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

As I anticipate our trip to Japan later this month, I am reminded of my sense of deep connection to Asian culture and religion, something that has been a part of my life for many years. In fact, those of you have been to our home may remember that its decor has been greatly influenced by Japanese and Chinese art and design – some of it gathered on our trip over twenty years ago to China, Tibet, and Japan with a group of Unitarian Universalists from our church in Delaware.

What you may not know is that we met a young Japanese couple in Kyoto on that trip and are excited to be seeing them again this time. It will be a delight to have time to connect with them in ways that short notes, letters, and pictures over the years have not been able to do.

When I think about the reasons I am so drawn to Asian, particularly Japanese, culture, it is hard to put into words. But part of it is the beauty and simplicity of the countryside, the temples, pagodas, gardens, and palaces. There is a sense of tranquility and peacefulness that feeds my spirit. And I have long hoped for the opportunity to reconnect with that feeling.

I am sure that many things will have changed. But I know that I will find joy in what remains and in many new experiences as well. I also look forward to sharing what I discover with you when I return.

In closing, I leave this haiku with you.

I will soon miss you
Breeze moves through the shadow space
Have peace and blessings

Rev. Betty



Rev. Betty and Tom will be on a tour of Japan from August 21 – September 3.

In case of a serious situation needing ministerial coverage, please call the UUCVH office.

For pastoral care needs, you may also call the office or one of the members of the Shared Ministry Team.

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*
Cindy Lopez, *Secretary*
Gary Clark, *Treasurer*
Terresa Jones, *Administrator*

818.248.3954
uucvh@uuverdugo.org

Office Hours:
please call or email
for appointment.
(Regular office hours
resume in September)



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.

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

I usually think of the summer months as a quiet time at church, but plenty has been happening around UUCVH. Our interior spaces have received a beautiful new coat of paint thanks to Paula Hallowell, our Aesthetics Committee, and all of the volunteers who helped move wall décor and furniture in preparation for the painters (and put everything back!). We are welcoming Elizabeth Schenck as our new RE Coordinator--if you haven't met her yet, please introduce yourself and find out what plans are in store for our children! And July finished with a bang with our annual summer picnic, sponsored by the GNU UUs, party-planners extraordinaire.

As we move into August I hope you are all making plans to come to the Roy Zimmerman concert on Tuesday evening, August 5. Get ready for a fun-filled evening of political satire and great folk music--and please invite friends, neighbors, and anyone else you think would enjoy the evening! Later in the month we will have an inspirational guest speaker, Sam Morris—watch for notice of his special presentation. Also in August, the board and committee chairs hold their annual “retreat” to vision and plan for the coming year. If you have any ideas for us to consider, please contact me or one of our board members.

Last, but not least, remember to be collecting a small amount of water from your summer activities or travels for our Water Ceremony in September. It is always wonderful to witness how effectively the simple act of sharing of water and stories from our separate summer adventures brings us together as a community at our “in-gathering” service.

Ann Kleinsasser



The UUCVH Theatre will be dark in August as our host, the illustrious Paula Hallowell enjoys a well earned summer break! Join us again next month for *The General* at our September **Movie Night!**



GNU UUs

**Dinner Meeting on
Monday, August 11
5:30-7pm**

at

**The Black Cow Café
2219 Honolulu Ave.
Montrose, CA 91020**

Menu & Directions
available at their site
theblackcowcafe.com



**Meditation Group
Wednesday, August 13
7:00 pm at UUCVH**

BITS FROM THE BOARD

7-16-14

Facilities: Paula [is determined to find the perfect color stain for the wood trim around the chancel.]

Ministerial Ordination: For Summer Albayati, scheduled for September 28th [to be held at UUCVH and jointly hosted together with Bakersfield UU.]

RE Director: Hired Elizabeth Brown.

Eagle Scout Project: Preliminary work proceeding [on the side-yard by Dustin Hunt].

Committees: Four committees in need of chairpersons:

- 1) Religious Education
- 2) Membership
- 3) Worship
- 4) Outreach

Roy Zimmerman concert scheduled for Tuesday, August 5th.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 20 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Lopez, Secretary

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.



Shared Ministry Team
will meet with Rev. Betty next month
Sunday, September 21
12:30 to 2 p.m.

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 Group
at UUCVH

Sunday, August 17 from 12:30 to 2 p.m.

Our group has been meeting for over 2 years, and all are welcome to join us. It is a gathering of UUCVH folks who get together monthly (usually on the 3rd Sunday of the month) from 12:30 to 2 p.m. to talk about a different spiritual and/or religious topic each month with openness and respect. If you would like more information about the group, please contact Rev. Betty and/or come to the next meeting.

The new
UUCVH
Members & Friends Directory
is coming this fall!



Send your favorite pictures of yourself & family to be included in our new updated Directory by Wednesday, August 27th.

- Drop off your original photographs at the office to be copied and we will return them to you.

OR

- Email photos to the office at uucvh@uuverdugo.org

Please also submit additions and changes, to your listing:

- Name & childrens' name
- Birthday (if you like)
- Physical address
- Mailing address
- Home phone number
- Cell phone number
- Email address
- ID # of your carrier pigeon

That's all!

Terresa Jones will be out of town from August 5 – August 15.

If you have any administrative needs, please contact an appropriate committee chairperson, President Ann Kleinsasser, or Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford.
Thanks a whole heap!



The painters did a great job freshening up the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. It was quite a mess for a while but everything is getting back to normal.



Ingathering Service

Sunday, September 7 is our annual Ingathering Service at which all are welcomed back after the summer. Each person is invited to bring a small container of water from his or her summer adventures to share in our Water Communion. We will also celebrate with a Board transition ceremony for all retiring and incoming UUCVH Board members.

Whether you're at home relaxing or traveling and adventuring, remember to gather a small container of water. We look forward to hearing about how your source of water is meaningful to you!

**Corey Stein presents her original work at the "Kaleidoscope" Exhibition of Artists! Art Show runs now through August 23rd.
Couturier Gallery
166 N. La Brea Ave., Los Angeles
323-933-5557
www.couturiergallery.com**



Religious Education Elizabeth Brown

We welcome our new
Religious Education &
Exploration Director!

Elizabeth Brown has been working in the field of education for about 10 years now and received her Masters degree in Early Childhood Education from Mills College in Oakland, CA.

Her wife's name is Dena, and their almost three-year-old daughter is named Lila Louise. Elizabeth is thrilled to be joining our Unitarian Universalist team and bringing religious education to the children in the program and the community at-large. She is looking forward to getting to know this wonderful community and working with the children to explore the important values of the UU tradition in creative and exciting ways.

She is also looking forward to holding events for the community's youth to bring awareness of our presence in the community and to get to know one another.



**Elizabeth, we are delighted to
welcome you to UUCVH!**

Tuesday, August 5 from 7 – 9 pm Roy Zimmerman in Concert “The Blue Dot Tour”

Sponsored by the Gnu UUs

This will be the third year that we have been entertained by singer, songwriter, satirist Roy Zimmerman here in our UUCVH sanctuary.

Come and bring lots of friends and family for this evening of irreverent musical commentary about almost everyone.

- ⊕ Tickets are \$20 suggested donation each at the door.
- ⊕ No one will be turned away for lack of funds.
- ⊕ Refreshments served at intermission and after the concert.
- ⊕ Roy will also have some of his CDs for sale.
- ⊕ Sample Roy's show with a short video of him in action on our website home page (right side column) www.uuverdugo.org

the Outlook Newsletter is published monthly by
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Editor & Webmistress: Teresa Jones
Deadline for copy is the Friday after
the third Thursday of the month.
Editor reserves the right to edit for content &/or space.
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UUCVH's Summer Potluck Picnic



Shaved Ice Princess Linda Hunt made “sno-cones”!
Rev. Betty's favorite flavor was bubble gum...
or was it cotton candy?



It's safer over here under the trees...
at least from the bees!



Dig in!
Everyone brought super yummi food to share!.



Uh... which camera should I look at?



Rev Betty ministers her compassion to the very young
too!



Trouncing around on the playground!



Paula sighs, “It's been a groovy day!”



**Sam Morris, Founder of
Zen Warrior Training**

www.zenwarriortraining.com

ZEN WARRIOR TRAINING PRESENTS

“CHALLENGE IS OPPORTUNITY - THE ART OF RESILIENCY”

Every day, we face new challenges that can potentially consume us if we are not prepared to handle them. But if we have the right attitude and approach, these same challenges can be our most effective means for growth and development. In each moment, there is a choice we must make – feel overwhelmed by the challenges we face and let them drain us of vital energy, or find the inner resources and courage to overcome them.

**Meet Sam on Sunday, August 31st at his Preview
Presentation as our Sunday Service Guest
Speaker !**

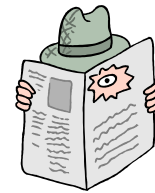
**Sam will be returning to UUCVH for his Full-
Length Presentation on
Tuesday, September 9th at 7PM**



**Women's Group Potluck
Luncheon
Friday, August 8 at 11:30am
*Aesthetics Committee
following lunch!**



Monday, August 4 at 7pm



**the Outlook Newsletter
deadline
Friday, August 22nd at 10AM**

**Membership Committee at
UUCVH
Monday, August 11 from 7:30 –
9pm**

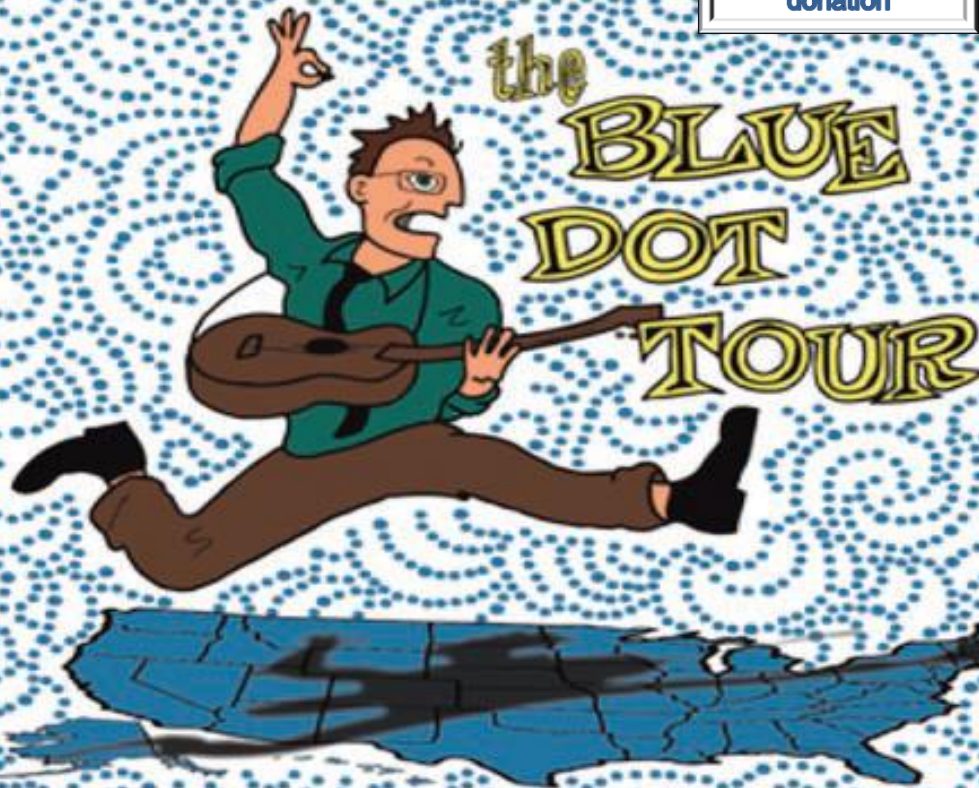
**Committee on Ministry at
UUCVH
Monday, August 18 at 7:30pm**

"He simultaneously inspires me and makes me laugh my ass off" - Paul Krassner

roy zimmerman

Tuesday August 5, 2014 7p.m.
UU Church of the Verdugo Hills
4451 Dunsmore Avenue, La Crescenta CA
One Block South of Foothill Blvd

**\$20 suggested
donation**



funny songs about peace and justice

"Roy Zimmerman simultaneously inspires me and makes me laugh my ass off," says comedian/author Paul Krassner. Roy tours almost constantly, taking his funny songs about fracking, creationism, marijuana laws, government shutdown, same-sex marriage, guns, taxes and abstinence across the country, often playing in some of the least Progressive places in America for the most Progressive people there - the "Blue Dots" he calls them.

In thirteen albums over twenty years, Roy Zimmerman has brought the sting of satire to the struggle for Peace and Social Justice. His songs have been heard on HBO and Showtime. He has recorded for Warner/Reprise Records. Zimmerman's YouTube videos have amassed over seven million views. He's been profiled on NPR's "All Things Considered," and he's a featured blogger for the Huffington Post.

Refreshments served at intermission and after concert

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August 2014 at UUCVH						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Corey Stein's Art Show runs through August 23 rd	2
3 Message 10:30am, "Radical Hospitality, Rev Dr Betty Stapleford Congregation 1 st Sunday Potluck Luncheon at Noon	4 Knitting Circle, 7 pm	5 Roy Zimmerman Concert at 7pm	6	7	8 Women's Group Potluck Luncheon, 11:30 am Aesthetics Committee following luncheon	9 Annual Board Members Retreat
10 Message 10:30am, "Advice from a Chalice," Maggie Yenoki <i>Full Moon</i>	11 GNU UUs Dinner at The Black Cow Café, Montrose, 5:30pm Membership Committee 7:30p,	12	13 Meditation Group 7pm	14	15	16
17 Message 10:30am, "Will We Be the Ones Left Behind," Rev Dr Betty Stapleford Spiritual Explorers 12:30pm	18 Committee on Ministry 7:30pm	19	20 Board Meeting 7pm	21	22 Deadline for <i>Outlook</i> Newsletter submissions!	23 Corey Stein's Art Show closes
24 Message 10:30am, "Seeds & Eggs," Eileen Maurer	25 <i>New Moon</i>	26	27 Deadline to submit photos to office for new Directory!	28	29	30
31 Message 10:30am, "Challenge Is Opportunity- The Art of Resiliency," Sam Morris	September 1					

Save the date!

August 1	Corey Stein's Art Show open until August 23
August 3	1 st Sunday Potluck Lunch following Services
August 4	Knitting Circle, 7pm
August 5	Roy Zimmerman Concert at UUCVH 7 - 9pm
August 8	Womens Group Potluck, 11:30am Aesthetics Committee, following
August 9	UUCVH Board Members Retreat, 9am – 2pm
August 10	Full Moon
August 11	GnuUU Dinner at Black Cow Café, 5:30 – 7pm
August 11	Membership Committee at UUCVH, 7:30 - 9 pm
August 13	Meditation Group at UUCVH, 7pm
August 17	Spiritual Explorers at UUCVH, 12:30 – 2pm
August 18	Committee on Ministry at UUCVH, 7:30pm
August 20	Board Meeting at 7pm
August 22	Deadline for <i>Outlook</i> Newsletter
August 25	New Moon
August 27	Deadline to submit photos to office for Directory



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