

the Outlook

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

September 2014
Volume 19, Issue 9

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

10:30 AM

Childrens & Youth Religious Education class concurrent

September 7, "Ingathering and Water Communion"

Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford & Ministerial Intern Debbie Rice

This is the service each year at which all are welcomed back after the summer. Each person is invited to bring a small container of water and a short story from his or her summer adventures to share during our Water Communion. There will also be a Board Transition Ceremony for retiring and newly-elected Board members.

September 14

"Escalating Inequality; The Scourge of our Times"

Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford

At this year's Unitarian Universalist General Assembly, the delegates voted for us to tackle the issue of the increasing gap between the rich and poor in our country. What that means is that we will be asked to spend time during the next four years investigating this concern and discovering what we may be called do about it. So we will be starting that process in this interactive service. Come and let your voice be heard.

September 21, "Leaning Into Silence"

Deborah Rice, Ministerial Intern, UUCVH

Candidate for UU Ministry

Silence can make one terribly uncomfortable, or it can make one relax and feel peaceful. What is it about silence that triggers such strong reactions in us? Please join us to explore the great paradox of silence.

September 28

"Atonement in a UU Context" Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford

Every year at this time, Jews are asked to look at their behavior during the past last twelve months and make amends during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur for the bad things they have done. As Unitarian Universalists we say we believe in "the inherent worth and dignity of every person." But that does not mean that we never do things for which we are sorry. We UUs don't have a traditional time of repentance, but maybe we should look more carefully at how we can find relief from the guilt that sometimes plagues us. There are no indulgences being offered during this service, but we could just find liberation in community from some of our burdens.



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.
WELCOME!

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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*
Teresa Jones, *Administrator*

818.248.3954

uucvh@uuverdugo.org

Office Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday

9:30am-12noon



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

As I think about our September Ingathering service, I am reminded of the critical importance of building community in our lives. It is not just about being together. It is deeper than that. It is truly sharing ourselves with each other and being there in the joyful and sorrowful moments. For I believe we must find all the ways we can to be with and for those who need us as much as we need them

The following words by one of my Unitarian Universalist exemplars, Rev. Dr. Richard Gilbert, inspire me to remember how important our human connections are. And I would like to share them with you.

“The touching of hands is an ancient ritual,
written deep within us.
As greeting, it welcomes us into the intimacy of others.
As farewell, it assures us that we shall be missed.
In bereavement, it speaks our common hurt.
In love, it is silent, sure sharing, needing no words.
The touching of hands in a human circle welcomes all into its warmth.
In steep places it gives and receives strength in climbing.
The trembling touching of hands is a cry for help none may ignore.
The tentative touching of hands is an invitation to reach out, to include.
The touching of hands is no small thing:
It is the sharing of life with life.”

I hope that as summer turns into fall, and throughout the year ahead, we will remember these words and their powerful message, encouraging us to reach toward each other - and to those outside our circle as well.
Let us all join hands in common purpose to build a beloved community and invite all to join with us in common purpose!

Blessings,
Rev. Betty



UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
MINISTERS
ASSOCIATION

**Rev. Betty will be attending
the PSWD Chapter UUMA Fall
Retreat in Rancho Palos
Verdes from September 29 to
October 2 but can be reached via her cell phone for
ministerial emergencies.**

**Sunday, September 28
4:00pm**

The Ordination of Summer Albayati-Krikeche



We at UUCVH will be honored with the opportunity to ordain Summer Albayati-Krikeche in our sanctuary, along with the members of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Kern County where Summer has served as the minister during the last year.

According to our polity, only congregations may bestow this honor, recognizing that a candidate for the UU ministry has achieved Preliminary Fellowship by completing a rigorous set of qualifications and is ready to formally enter the professional ministry. This ceremony will be attended by ministers and laypeople throughout the Pacific Southwest District and will be an opportunity for all to share this momentous occasion with Summer and her family. Do plan to attend and let Summer know how much you support her calling to ministry and the many gifts she has to share.

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

There are many ways to be involved at UUCVH, beyond our Sunday morning services. As we begin a new church year, I hope you will find fulfillment in participating with other congregation members in ways that enrich not only your life, but also the life of our congregation and our community.

I thought that this time of year would be a good opportunity to highlight several groups that play important roles at UUCVH. In thinking about each of these groups, I was struck by the many opportunities for creativity they provide. Please talk to me or other congregation members to find out more about these groups, and let us know if you are interested in becoming involved—we welcome fresh faces and ideas!

The **Worship Committee** plans Sunday morning services for dates when Rev. Betty will not be in the pulpit. Work includes finding outside speakers or planning “in-house” programs, and providing a Lay Leader/Worship Associate who prepares the elements of the service. Our Ministerial Intern, Debbie Rice, will be providing a brief training/orientation for congregation members interested in serving as a Lay Leader.

The **Membership Committee** greets and follows up with visitors, helps interested visitors along the path to membership, participates in New Member Welcoming Ceremonies, keeps track of membership numbers and directory information, and supports congregation members with notes and cards.

The **Religious Education Committee** supports the RE Coordinator; assists as needed with RE planning and programs, and provides classroom volunteers when necessary.

The **Outreach Committee** helps increase our visibility and exposure in the surrounding community. This is a perfect opportunity for “think-outside-the-box” UUs (what other kind are there?).

The **Social Action Circle** organizes and supports projects to help others in need in our community and beyond, and works to increase social justice locally and globally.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our Ingathering/Water Ceremony service on September 7!

Ann Kleinsasser



Monday, September 1 at 7pm

Membership Committee
Thursday, September 4 at
11:00am



Women's Group Potluck
Luncheon
Friday, September 12 at
11:30am

***Aesthetics Committee**
following lunch!



Spiritual Explorers Group
Sunday, September 14
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 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.

INTERN'S INSPIRATION

Hello Everyone,
I hope you all had a lovely summer. I loved summertime when I was young. It was a time for sleeping in, sleepovers with friends, riding my bike to the beach, swimming, reading and eating ice cream. I can't say that I still enjoy every one of those pastimes, but I love the spirit of summer, with its slightly more relaxed vibe.

I enjoy the sunshine, the cherries, peaches, and plums and the extra daylight hours. Since night falls a little later in the summer months, I was able to enjoy some glorious sunsets as I commuted from Newport Beach back to my home in Santa Clarita. I certainly didn't relish those seemingly endless car trips, but it was worth it to watch the sky turn from shades of blue to a golden yellow or burnt orange color. As I looked out at the multicolored sky, I felt grateful to live in a world where moments of great beauty abound. It felt like glimpsing a little piece of heaven. Summer has always had that magical quality of great possibility for me, where I knew that I will be filled with the awe and wonder of life. I hope that you all experienced moments of great beauty, joy, and fun this summer.

I look forward to beginning another church year with UUCVH!

I have been hard a work coming up with ideas for sermons, workshops, and ways we can put our faith into action. I have also been developing a plan to facilitate sacred writing sessions in the **Spiritual Explorers** group. It will be a great joy to collaborate with you all to see that some of the fledgling ideas come to fruition. So keep your eyes peeled for announcements about upcoming events.

Peace and blessings,
Debbie



GNU UUs
Dinner Meeting on
Monday, September 15
5:30-7pm

at **La Cabañita Restaurant**
3445 N. Verdugo Rd., Glendale, CA 91208

Menu & Directions available at their site
www.cabanitarestaurant.com

Committee on Ministry
meeting
Monday, September 15 at
7:30pm



LA Valley Cluster Camp
retreat at
De Benneville Pines

Register Now

Friday, October 10
through
Sunday, October 12

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

www.uucamp.org

Don't miss out on a weekend of fun, good food, fellowship, spirituality, workshops, hiking, games, hot tub or just relaxing in the beautiful San Bernardino Mountains. Join fellow UUs at the LA/Valley Cluster camp.

- Heated cabins with hot showers
- Hearty meals in the lodge shared with fellow UUs
- Hiking, crafts, quiet time, workshops, games or just sitting on the deck reading a book
- UUs from Emerson, the Onion, Santa Clarita will be there for fellowship and spirituality

**Sam Morris returns
to UUCVH for the Full-Length Presentation
“CHALLENGE IS OPPORTUNITY - THE ART OF RESILIENCY”
Tuesday, September 9
7:00 – 8:30 PM**

**Don't miss this amazing opportunity to be inspired!
FREE seminar & Open to the public!**



Sam Morris founder of Zen Warrior Training®
a personal development program dedicated to
helping people to achieve self-mastery.
www.zenwarriortraining.com

Sam Morris returns for a full-length, in-depth exploration of his experience with paraplegia and to share the personal values and mental and physical skills he has learned, and teaches to his clients, to conquer challenges and live a thriving & balanced life.

Refreshments following.

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.



Movie Night

Hosted by Paula Hallowell

Thursday, September 4
at 6:30pm

The General, 1926

Starring Buster Keaton &
Marion Mack

Johnnie loves his train ("The
General") and Annabelle Lee.

When the Civil War begins he

is turned down for service because he's more
valuable as an engineer. Annabelle thinks it's
because he's a coward. Union spies capture The
General with Annabelle on board. Johnny must
rescue both his loves.

Coming Attractions

Thursday,
October 30
6:30pm

**The Hunchback of
Notre Dame**

1939, NR, 115 minutes



Wednesday,
November 19
6:00pm (early start)

**It's a Wonderful
Life**

1946, NR, 132 minutes



December:
Theatre will be dark.



Meditation Group
Wednesday, September 17
7:00 pm

Outlook Newsletter deadline
Friday, September 19 at 10:00AM



Shared Ministry Team
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.



**Ralphs Grocery Stores
Community Contributions Program**

Ralphs donates a percentage of your monthly grocery spending directly to UUCVH when you enroll and shop.
It's all free to you!

**September 1st
Annual Renewal Registration Opens**

There are two ways to enroll:

- Online registration (see instructions below)
- Scan-Bar letter

If you received a scan-bar letter last year, it is still good and can be used this year. If you would like to receive a scan-bar letter, please email the office at uucvh@uuverdugo.org.

****WEBSITE REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS****

IF YOU ARE ALREADY AN ONLINE CUSTOMER

1. Log in to www.ralphs.com
2. Click Sign In
3. Enter your email address and password
4. Click on 'My Account' (In the top right hand corner)
5. View all your information and edit as necessary
6. Link your card to your organization by clicking on:
 - a. Community Rewards
 - b. Edit my community contribution and follow the instructions
 - c. Remember to click on the circle to the left of your organizations' name, Unitarian Universalist Church of the Verdugo Hills, #83364

IF YOU HAVE NOT REGISTERED YOUR REWARDS CARD ONLINE

1. Log in to www.ralphs.com
2. Click on 'Create an Account'
3. Follow the 5 easy steps to create an online account
4. You will be instructed to go to your email inbox to confirm your account
5. After you confirm your online account by clicking on the link in your email, return to www.ralphs.com and click on 'my account' (you may have to sign in again first).
6. View all your information and edit as necessary
7. Link your card to your organization by clicking on:
 - a. Community Rewards
 - b. Edit my community contribution and follow the instructions
 - c. Remember to click on the circle to the left of your organizations' name, Unitarian Universalist Church of the Verdugo Hills, #83364

September 2014 at UUCVH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Knitting Circle, 7 pm	2	3	4 Membership Com. 11am Movie Night "The General" 6:30pm	5	6
7 Service: 10:30am: "Ingathering & Water Communion," Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford & Deborah Rice Potluck Luncheon at Noon Shared Ministry 12:30pm	8	9 "Challenge Is Opportunity", Sam Morris, 7pm at UUCVH	10	11 Board Meeting 7pm	12 Women's Group Potluck Luncheon, 11:30 am Aesthetics Committee following luncheon	13
14 Service: 10:30am; "Escalating Inequality; The Scourge of our Times," Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford Spiritual Explorers 12:30pm	15 GNU UUs Dinner at La Cabanita, 5:30pm Committee on Ministry 7:30pm	16	17 Meditation Group 7pm	18	19 Deadline for <i>Outlook</i> Newsletter submissions!	20
21 Service: 10:30am: "Leaning Into Silence," Deborah Rice	22	23 Worship Committee. 7pm	24	25	26	27
28 Service: 10:30am: "Atonement in a UU Context," Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford Ordination of Summer Albayati-Krikeche 4pm	29 Guest Chef at Asencia	30	October 1	2 Membership Com. 11am	3	4 GNU UU Potluck BBQ @ Corey's, 3-6pm

Save the date!

Sept 1 – Knitting Circle 7 pm
Sept 4 – Membership Committee 11 am
Sept 4 – Movie Night *The General* 6:30pm
Sept 7 – Ingathering Service 10:30am
Sept 7 – First Sunday Potluck Lunch, noon
Sept 7 – Shared Ministry – 12:30 – 2pm
Sept 9 – Zen Warrior, Sam Morris Program, 7-9pm
Sept 11 – Board Meeting, 7 pm
Sept 12 – Womens Group Potluck Lunch 11:30am
Sept 12 – Aesthetics Committee following Womens Group
Sept 14 – Spiritual Explorers – 12:30 to 2 pm
Sept 15 – GnuUU Dinner at La Cabanita, 5:30pm
Sept 15 – Committee on Ministry 7:30 pm
Sept 17 – Meditation Group 7 pm
Sept 19 – Newsletter Deadline
Sept 23 – Worship Committee 7-9 pm
Sept 28 – Ordination of Summer Albayati 4 pm
Sept 29 – Guest Chef to Asencia

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