

the Outlook

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



October 2014
Volume 19, Issue 10

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

10:30 AM

Childrens & Youth Religious Education class concurrent

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:
Tuesday & Thursday
9:30am-12noon
or 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.

October 5, 2014

“Sacrifice in Islam” Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford

The Muslim holiday of Eid al Adha, on October 4th this year, is a time for Muslims to look at the meaning of sacrifice as a part of their religious tradition. And there have been lots of misunderstandings about this aspect of Islam. With that in mind, we will look at this holiday from both religious and experiential perspectives. Hopefully, our exploration will give us a better understanding of others and ourselves.

October 12, 2014

“Is Our Self-Worth Defined by Our Net Worth?”

Trish Lester, Guest Speaker

Most people are interested in having enough money or keeping what they have. Yet dollars alone don't guarantee a fulfilling life, and excessive wealth is often an obstacle to contentment. So if money doesn't buy happiness, why do we all want it so much? And what will make us happy? Are we truly using our money to support our values? This enlightening service, presented by a successful entrepreneur, saver and investor, explores money and spirituality.

October 19, 2014

“To Pray, or Not to Pray” Deborah Rice, Ministerial Intern

Praying can be a controversial topic in a Unitarian Universalist context. Whom should one pray to? Is prayer really needed, when one can simply meditate instead? How does prayer feed one's spirit? We will explore these questions and others as we delve into the ambivalent feelings UUs might have surrounding the practice of prayer.

October 26, 2014

“Halloween, All Hallows Eve, and Samhain”

Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford

The background of what we call Halloween is a long one and one that deserves more attention. It isn't just about dressing in costumes, trick-or-treating, or being scared by frightening noises and stories. It is really about life and death and many things in-between. Come in a costume if you wish and prepare to go more deeply into the spiritual implications of this greatly misunderstood holiday.



Membership Committee
Thursday, October 2
11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Contact Membership Chair
Florence Chase with
interests and inquiries.



Off Foothill Players
Meeting & rehearsal
Thursday, October 2
7 - 8:30 pm
 (Editor's note: I can't wait
 to find out what they're
 planning!)



Potluck BBQ
at Corey Stein's
Saturday, October 4
3:00-6:00 pm

You're Invited!
 Join the GnuUUs & others at
 Corey's house for a potluck
 barbecue. Bring meat or
 veggies to grill and a side
 dish or dessert to share.
 Contact Rev Betty, Paula
 Hallowell or Corey Stein for
 directions. See you there!

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

I am very aware right now how wonderful and awful life can be. As we remind ourselves at every Sunday service, life is made up of both joys and sorrows. And that has certainly been the case in our congregation during the last month. We have lost long-time member John Craven to death, and we are celebrating the ordination of our former intern Summer Albayati-Krikeche.

And there have been many other sad and happy times in the lives of our congregants. As one of our hymns reminds us: "Joy and woe are woven fine."

So what are we to do? There are lots of things, of course. But I think the words by Rev. Richard Gilbert in his piece called "What We Share" give us some help.

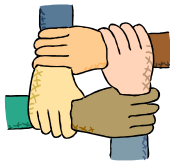
"Let us celebrate the common rituals that make us kin:
 The poignancy of welcome and farewell,
 The anguish of defeat,
 The tender touch of those who call us friend;
 The exuberant joy of birth,
 The empty space in our hearts when a loved one dies,
 The ultimate loneliness that each knows,
 The warm embrace of comrades who welcome us to the
 celebration of life;
 The questions that persist and perplex and do not yield to our
 need for answers,
 The shining moments when the sun slants across our dim
 meandering path and illuminates the way,
 The strange and anxious excitement of moving on to new places
 to call home;
 The fragments of frustration when our best efforts yield
 pitiful results,
 The helplessness we feel in a world that sometimes presents
 only problems,
 The high joy when some small victory for humanity is won and
 we have helped it happen;
 In all our moments of doubt and despair, of problem and pain,
 Let us remember the common lot shared by our human kin.
 In all our times of truth and triumph, of faith and fortitude,
 Let us celebrate what we share.
 We are, after all, in this together."

And I am very glad that I am together with you.
 Blessings and hugs,
 Rev. Betty



**First Sunday Potluck on
October 5 at 11:30 am.**

Board President Ann Kleinsasser shares the Board's plans, goals, and priorities for the year during lunch.



**Shared Ministry Team
Sunday, October 5
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 team members 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.

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

“Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?” Do you recognize these words from our September song of the month? It was brought to my attention (by a scientist I know) that they come from an interesting and unusual source: a painting by Paul Gauguin. Try googling the words and check out the Wikipedia entry to see the symbolic painting and its background. Knowing the source adds an extra dimension to the haunting melody and thought provoking words.

So...Where *do* we come from? (i.e.: what's been happening around UUCVH)

It was wonderful to have such a good turnout for our guest speaker, Sam Morris, on Sunday, August 31. And those who attended his full presentation in September enjoyed an educational and inspiring evening! Thanks to Terresa Carson-Jones for arranging for these presentations and getting the word out. It was also good to be together at our ingathering service and water ceremony, and to share stories of summer times. At this writing plans are taking shape for the Ordination ceremony of Summer Albayati-Krikeche. We are excited to welcome her back to our church as she becomes a full-fledged minister.

And...Where are we going? (i.e.: what's coming up)

As you may know, our UUCVH board and committee chairs met for a “retreat” toward the end of the summer to make plans and discuss our visions for the coming year. The giant chart paper and markers came out and we brainstormed ways to continue to inspire members of our congregation, and also to make UUCVH more visible and accessible to the surrounding community. The result was a long “wish list” which we have tried to prioritize and narrow down to several doable goals. What are they? To find out, be sure to **join us at the Salad Luncheon after the service on Sunday, October 5.**

We'd love to share our goals with you and get your ideas and feedback. I look forward to seeing you all there!

Ann Kleinsasser



Monday, October 6 at 7pm
All skill levels welcome.
 Come learn how to knit!

The holidays are coming and knitting a special gift for a loved one is always treasured! Also, many of our projects are donated to children in need & local hospitals such as sweaters, blankets, preemie baby booties & hats.

Contact Chairperson Linda Hunt for more details.



Women's Group Potluck Luncheon
Friday, October 10 at 11:30am

Contact Deane Phinney, our Women's Group Chair if you'd like to join us!
You are also welcome to "just show up" for potluck lunch!

***Aesthetics Committee following lunch!**

Contact Aesthetics Chair, Paula Hallowell to chip in with the never ending projects she takes on that help make UUCVH our church home!



Space Still Available!

Cluster Camp Weekend at De Benneville Pines
 Friday, October 10 - Sunday, October 12
Register Now at www.uucamp.org

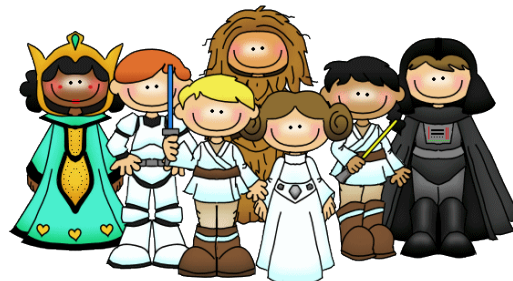
Join in a weekend of fun, good food, fellowship, spirituality, workshops, hiking, crafts, games, hot tub or just relaxing in the beautiful San Bernardino Mountains. Meet UU friends from the Valley & LA Clusters including Emerson, First Church LA, Neighborhood, Santa Clarita, Sepulveda, Studio City, Santa Monica, & Throop. **Registration Forms are available online, in Fellowship Hall, and in the UUCVH office.**

If you have questions, e-mail clustercamp@ymail.com
 We hope to have a good crowd from UUCVH this year.
 Don't miss it!



Spiritual Explorers Group
Sunday, October 19
12:30 to 2 pm

All are welcome to join in our gathering of UUCVH folks who come together to talk about a different spiritual and/or religious topic each month with openness and respect. For more information about the group, please contact Rev. Betty and/or come to the next meeting.



Happy Halloween!



GNU UUs

Dinner Meeting

Monday, October 20

5:30-7pm

Cracking Crab Restaurant

2256 Honolulu Ave

Montrose, CA 91020

Fantastic Creole/Cajun

Seafood by the pound - mallet

included!

**Contact Paula Hallowell, Chair
of the GNUUs for details!**

MOVIE NIGHT

Hosted by Paula Hallowell



Thursday October 30

6:30pm

***The Hunchback of
Notre Dame***

1939, NR, 115 minutes

NEXT MONTH



Wednesday November 19

6:00pm (early start)

It's a Wonderful Life

1946, NR, 132 minutes



Last year's fabulous Board Members welcome our new wonderful UUCVH Board Members for their service ahead!



Kore wa subarashidesu! Dō ichi kimono!
Rev Betty and Tom enjoyed a beautiful trip to Japan in September.

INTERN'S INSPIRATION

Thursday, October 16th: “Writing as a Sacred Practice” 7:00 – 9:00 pm

The Meditation Group will be trying out something new in the coming months. The group will be exploring writing as a sacred or spiritual practice, facilitated by Debbie Rice, ministerial intern. You do **not** have to have any writing experience at all to join the sessions. You will not have to create finished writing pieces during our time together, and no one will have to critique their own or anyone else's work. We will write, reflect and share with one another in a totally non-judgmental environment.

The sessions will begin with some opening words and silent meditation. You will then be briefly introduced to the theme of the evening. Examples of possible themes are: hope, sin, redemption, grace, hospitality, justice, love, reverence and faith. Then you will be given a prompt and have some time to do some writing, which might just be jotting down a list or some ideas. Next, I will share some additional stories, poems, or images with you, and then give you the second prompt. We will continue on in this fashion for one or two more prompts and writing experiences. There will also be time given for sharing, as the group wishes. We will always end with a poem or a reading and a blessing for the road. The idea is for you to be able to explore the themes more deeply by taking time to stir the imagination and then write about the thoughts and feelings that bubble up in you. It will be a very spiritual and deeply meaningful journey. The sessions are open to all. I hope you will consider taking the journey of sacred writing to awaken the spirit with us!

There will be a different monthly theme. The theme for October will be prayer, which coincides with the worship service I will be doing. Each month I will craft a sermon around our particular theme. The sessions will usually meet on the third Thursday of the month from 7:00-9:00 p.m. I hope to see you all there!

Friday, October 17th: “Tea or Coffee with the Intern” 9:30 am – 11:30 am

Come and enjoy some coffee or tea and good conversation with our ministerial intern, Debbie Rice, on Friday, October 17th from 9:30- 11:30 am. Feel free to drop by anytime and spend some time getting to know one another a bit better. Often times we don't have the opportunity to chat with everyone we'd like to during our coffee hour after the service, so this is another opportunity to socialize. Debbie would be delighted to spend some time with you!

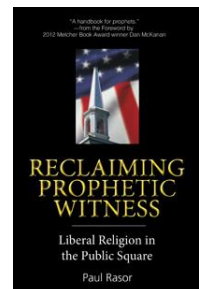
Saturday, October 25th: Worship Associate Training 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Whether you are a seasoned Worship Associate, or someone who is just curious about what the Worship Associates do, this is the workshop for you! We will be discussing the vital role a Worship Associate plays in the worship service. We will also explore ways that a W.A. can hone their craft. There will be plenty of time for questions and answers, as well as practice in the pulpit. Worship Associates help shape the worship experience people have at UUCVH, so this training will aid in either brushing up on one's skills, or letting those new to the role of W.A. experience what it is all about. So please join us on Saturday, October 25th from 2:00-4:00 p.m. to experience the great joy of being a Worship Associate. Fun will be had by all!

Coming Up in November

I will be facilitating a book discussion group on Monday evenings in November for UUA's "Common Read" The book is Paul Razor's *Reclaiming Prophetic Witness: Liberal Religion in the Public Square* (Skinner House Books, 2013). Buy or borrow your book now and be ready to delve into discussion. If you need help getting the book, just let me know.

In gratitude,
Debbie



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!



RE CORNER

This month we are working on the 2nd principle... Be kind in all you do. The children are working on thinking about what it means to be kind and what it means to be unkind. We are adding different art experiences and literature to explore the concept of kindness.

While our young children often associate kindness with those they love, it is also important to support their understanding of kindness on a more global scale. We will be exploring the idea of being kind to our earth, living beings other than humans, and even to the objects in our world.

When you are with the youth in your life or community, help them to identify ways to be kind. With my three year old daughter we talk about being kind in the way we share our thoughts and feelings. Even though as adults the concept of "kindness" seems simple, the act of truly being kind in all we do can sometimes be challenging.

Our little ones are watching, listening and learning from our words and actions..what a wonderful gift we can give them by being kind to others and being kind in our words and actions.

Hope to see your children at our next service!

Warmly,
Elizabeth Brown



Newsletter

Outlook Newsletter deadline

Friday, October 17 at 10:00AM

The Outlook Newsletter is published monthly by The Unitarian Universalist Church of the Verdugo Hills 4451 Dunsmore Ave. La Crescenta, CA 91214 818.248.3954 www.uuverdugo.org

Editor & Webmistress: Teresa Jones uucvh@uuverdugo.org

Deadline for copy: The Friday after the third Thursday of the month.

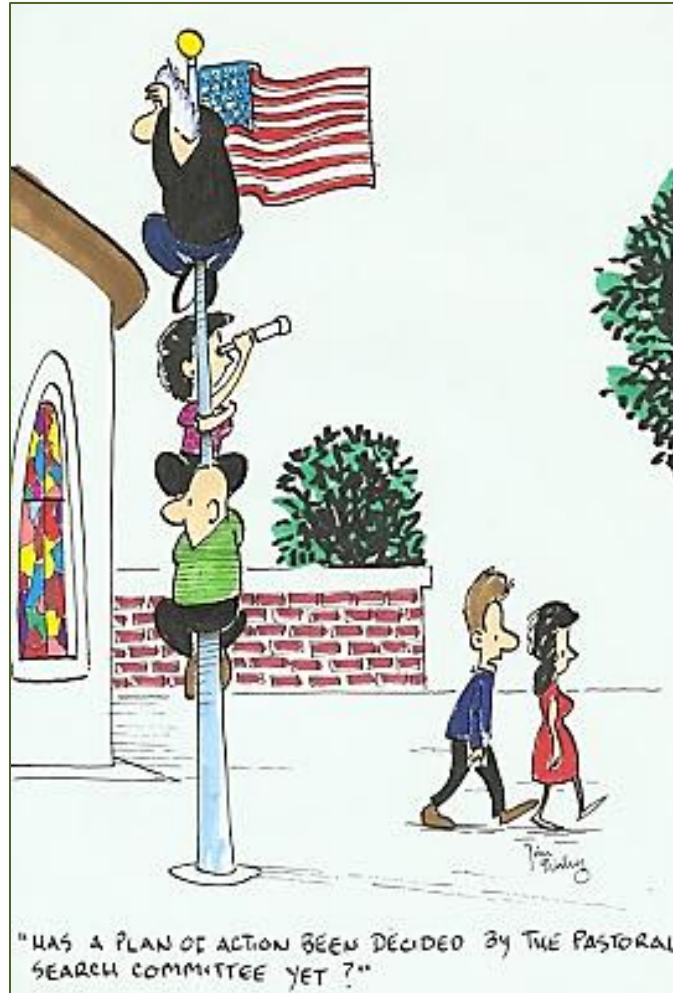
Editor reserves the right to edit for content and/or space.

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Committee on Ministry meeting Monday, October 20 at 7:30pm

Ministerial Search Committee Update



Your UUCVH Ministerial Search Committee is well on our way.

We have gathered to make a plan with our District Settlement Representative Ken Collier and are looking forward to this journey together for the greater good of UUCVH!

As many of you know, we created an anonymous congregation survey and distributed it. Lots of you have responded and we are now tallying the data.

Next, we are organizing five Focus Groups where we seek your specific thoughts on questions. These Focus Groups are going to be led mainly by Deane Phinney and be offered at different times to accommodate everyone. These sessions are small groups of about five or six people so we can give everyone's voice a chance to be heard.

Look for the sign up sheets coming soon to Fellowship Hall and find a Focus Group time that works for your schedule.

After the Focus Groups are completed in October, we combine this information with the survey data to compile our UUCVH "profile" – which is used to find a good ministerial match.

We will keep you posted with regular updates!

Your Search Committee Team,

Deane Phinney,
Co-Chair

Terresa Jones,
Co-Chair

Jerry Buchanan

Howard Richman

Roy Lopez

OCTOBER 2014 at UUCVH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 PSWD UU Ministers Assoc Retreat	2 PSWD UU Ministers Assoc Retreat Membership Committee. 11am Off Foothill Players meeting 7-8:30pm	3	4 All congregation Potluck BBQ at Corey's 3-6pm
5 Service: 10:30am "Sacrifice in Islam" Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford Potluck Luncheon at Noon & discussion w/ Pres. Ann Kleinsasser Shared Ministry 12:30pm	6 Knitting Circle 7 pm	7	8	9 Valley/LA Cluster UU Ministers at UUCVH 1:00- 3:00 pm Board Meeting 7:00pm	10 Women's Group Potluck Luncheon, 11:30am Aesthetics Committee following luncheon All Cluster Camp at DeBenneville Pines	11 All Cluster Camp at DeBenneville Pines
12 Service: 10:30am "Self-Worth Defined by Net-Worth?" Trish Lester, Guest Speaker All Cluster Camp at DeBenneville Pines	13	14	15	16 "Writing As A Sacred Practice" Group 7pm	17 10am Deadline for <i>Outlook</i> Newsletter submissions! "Tea & Coffe with the Intern" 9:30am	18 Church Rental 3pm + Friendship Dinners (check w/ Host for arrival time)
19 Service: 10:30am "To Pray or Not To Pray" Deborah Rice Spiritual Explorers 12:30pm	20 GNU UUs Dinner at Cracking Crab 5:30pm Committee on Ministry 7:30pm	21	22	23	24	25 "Worship Associate Training" 1-4pm
26 Service: 10:30am: "Halloween, All Hallow's Eve & Samhain" Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford Internship Committee 12Noon-1pm	27 Worship Committee 7pm with Chair Debbie Rice	28	29	30 Movie Night "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" (1939) 6:30pm	31 <i>Happy Halloween!</i>	November 1

Save the date!

- Oct 1-2 PSWD UU Ministers Association Retreat
Rancho Palos Verdes – Rev. Betty
- Oct 2 Membership Committee meeting 11 am-12:30 pm
- Oct 2 Off Foothill Players meeting 7-8:30 pm
- Oct 4 Potluck BBQ at Corey Stein’s 3-6 pm
All are invited!
- Oct 5 1st Sunday Potluck Luncheon noon
- Oct 5 Shared Ministry 12:30–2 pm
- Oct 6 Knitting Circle 7pm
- Oct 9 Board meeting 7 pm
- Oct 9 Valley Cluster UU Ministers at UUCVH 1-3 pm
- Oct 10 Womens Group Potluck Lunch 11:30am
Aesthetics Committee following
- Oct 10-12 Valley/LA Clusters Camp @ DeBenneville Pines
- Oct 16 Writing As A Sacred Practice Group 7 pm
- Oct 17 “Tea & Coffee with the Intern” 9:30am
- Oct 17 *Outlook* Newsletter Deadline 10am
- Oct 18 Friendship Dinners (check Host’s time)
- Oct 19 Spiritual Explorers 12:30-2 pm
- Oct 20 GnuUU Dinner @ Cracking Crab 5:30–7 pm
- Oct 20 Committee on Ministry 7:30-9 pm
- Oct 25 “Worship Assoc Training” 1-4pm
- Oct 26 Internship Committee 12 noon-1 pm
- Oct 27 Worship Committee 7-8:30 pm
- Oct 30 Movie Night: “The Hunchback of Notre Dame” 6:30pm



Blessed Samhain

the Outlook

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