

the Outlook

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

November 2014
Volume 19, Issue 11



A MONTH OF SUNDAYS 10:30 AM

Children's & Youth Religious Education class concurrent

Unitarian Universalist
Church of the Verdugo Hills
818.248.3954
uucvh@uuverdugo.org

Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford

Deborah Rice
Ministerial Intern/Candidate

Elizabeth Brown
Director of
Religious Exploration Education

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



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.

November 2

"Reaching the 'Nones': Our UU Opportunity for Salvation"

Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford

A great deal has been written in recent years about the growing number of what pollsters are calling the "Nones." They do not have any religious affiliation and may never have had one. They are a very different group from those who became UUs in the 1960s-1980s due to disenchantment with traditional religion. Many are *our people* who just don't know it yet. We have a message they need to hear. So what is holding us back?

November 9

"The Diary of Adam and Eve" by Mark Twain

A staged reading by the *Off-Foothill Players*, directed by Rev. Betty

This Sunday we will be entertained and challenged by this humorous presentation of the story of creation according to the book of Genesis, where all our problems supposedly began. We Unitarian Universalists owe a lot to Eve and her reptilian friend. So do come and support them in their journey toward the choices we have today.

November 16

"How We Got Here"

Alan Kleinsasser, Lay Leader

Several members of our UUCVH family will share their experiences in finding Unitarian Universalism and the subsequent evolution of their personal philosophies.

November 23

"The Spiritual Foundation for Social Justice"

Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford

We often think of Social Justice as limited actions of civil disobedience by dissidents who want to change local situations they see as wrong. That certainly has value. But, we are going to look at the inspiration for such actions and the systemic causes of injustice in our country and our world in the long term. We need to get at the roots of injustice, not just its symptoms. How can we make a difference in the long term?

November 30

"Radical Hospitality"

Debbie Rice, Ministerial Intern

During this holiday season and beyond, we will have the opportunity to extend hospitality to ourselves, loved ones and strangers. How can we be truly accepting of ourselves and each other? How can we give *radical* hospitality that creates a space to freely share our true essence with one other? How can we create sacred connections with others? Please join us as we explore the true meaning of giving and receiving *radical* hospitality.



Sunday, November 2nd Daylight Saving Time Ends

Remember to wake up at 2AM
and set your clock back to 1AM

If you forget, don't worry –
you'll be an hour early to
church!

(Or, you can just set your clock
back when you go to bed on
Saturday evening ;)

Short History of Daylight Savings Time

It was Benjamin Franklin's idea.
He actually suggested Daylight
Savings Time back in 1784, as a
way to economize on sunlight
and burn fewer candles during
winter mornings and nights;
however, the practice did not
become steadily official in the
United States until Congress
passed the Uniform Time Act in
1966, with the same intention
of saving energy.

Since that time, Congress has
expanded the length of daylight
saving time three times, once in
the 1970s during the country's
energy crisis, once in the 1980s,
when April got brought under
the daylight saving umbrella,
and finally in 2007. Today,
daylight saving time goes from
March into November.

Winston Churchill made this
comment about Daylight Saving
Time: "An extra yawn one
morning in the springtime, an
extra snooze one night in the
autumn... We borrow an hour
one night in April; we pay it
back with golden interest five
months later."

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

As Unitarian Universalists we don't spend a lot of time talking about our UU Principle that says: "We covenant to affirm and promote the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large." But as October morphs into November and Election Day, I begin to be concerned about the number of folks that do not vote or sometimes even register. As someone who has voted in almost every election that has been held in our country since I was 18, I just don't understand that kind nonparticipation.

Maybe it is that some people believe their vote won't really make a difference. But if enough people think that way, their inaction certainly can make a difference - and not a positive one for our progressive values. I am reminded of the quote by Unitarian minister Edward Everett Hale who said: "I am only one; but still I am one. I cannot do everything; but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do." It is words like these that inspire me to do whatever I can to make the world a better place – including my commitment to voting. So, if that makes me an optimist, I guess I will have to plead guilty.

Or maybe people believe that all politicians are corrupt and don't deserve our vote. I am not naïve enough not to understand that some politicians are dishonest. But I believe that our job is to find those who are not and vote for them and to carefully study the Propositions in both their texts and subtexts before casting our votes for or against them

My job is not to tell you how to vote or who to support. But I hope you will take the democratic process seriously and cast your vote on November 4th for the people and laws that exemplify your highest values as a Unitarian Universalist and a U.S. citizen. See you at the polls!

Blessings,
Rev. Betty



**Rev. Betty will be participating in
the UUJM CA
"Walking the Walk" Summit
from November 14 to 16.**

Please call the UUCVH Office in case of an
emergency requiring ministerial
coverage. The Shared Ministry Team will
be available for other support.



**First Sunday Potluck on
November 2 at 11:30 am.
Right after the Service**



**Shared Ministry Team
Sunday, November 2
12:30 to 2 PM**

We usually meet on the 1st Sunday of most months. Have you needed someone to talk to in confidence about things going on in your life 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.

Rev. Betty and Tom will be leaving to attend Tom's high school reunion and visit with his mother in New Jersey from the afternoon of Nov. 23 to the afternoon of Nov. 25.

Please call the UUCVH Office in case of an emergency requiring ministerial coverage.

The Shared Ministry Team will be available for other support.

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, I'd like to give thanks to a few people in our midst whose good works may go unnoticed.

As you may know, our church is responsible for serving dinner to residents of Ascencia homeless shelter each month that has a "fifth Monday". A small group of helpers has been faithfully doing the shopping, preparing the dinner in our church kitchen, and transporting and serving the food to Ascencia residents. THANK YOU to Celia Eiben, Frances Kuraoka and Jerry Buchanan for their commitment and energy! Thanks also to Howard Richman who often joins them at Ascencia to help serve the dinner. If you are interested in helping too, please contact one of these special people!

We take many things for granted around our church building. Light bulbs burn out and get replaced. The plumber is called to clean out the drain. Paint gets touched up. Things break and get repaired. Special facilities requests are handled. Who is doing all this work and more? THANK YOU to Paula Hallowell for patiently and tirelessly keeping our building beautiful and operational! Not to mention, all the set-up and beautiful exotic décor and lighting she provided for Summer's Ordination!

Speaking of the Ordination ceremony, I would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to Celia Eiben for coordinating the reception buffet and clean-up, ably aided by Vickie Guagliardo. Did we really serve dinner to over 150 people in our little kitchen? What a party it was!

I am certainly thankful for our wonderful church community, and I hope you will find many things to be thankful for during this season.

Ann Kleinsasser

PRAYER BREAKFAST

Thursday, November 6 from 6:30-8:30AM



Breakfast served at 7AM
CRESCENTA-CAÑADA FAMILY YMCA
1930 Foothill Blvd. La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011

Everyone is welcome on behalf of our community, our state, our nation and our world. KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Sarah Drew known for her role as Dr. April Kepner in Grey's Anatomy & on Mad Men & Glee.

Tickets: \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. Tickets at ymcafoothills.org

It's not all about 'prayer'; it's about people of all faiths coming together for a greater good.



**Monday, November 3
7:00 PM**

All skill levels welcome.
Come learn how to knit!

The holidays are coming & knitting a special gift 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 Knitting Circle Chair
Linda Hunt for more details.



**Tuesday, November 4 is
Election Day!
Go Vote!**

If you forgot to send in your ballot via US mail, you can always drop it off at UUCVH on Election Day – we serve as a local polling place. Poll opens at 7AM and closes at 8PM.



**Membership Committee
Thursday, November 6
11:00 am – 12:30 pm**

We meet monthly on the first Thursday. Contact Membership Chair Florence Chase with interests and inquiries.

SOCIAL ACTION CIRCLE

The Social Action Circle (SAC) has been dormant for a while. But we are in full swing again, as we are every year about this time. It's Christmastime at UUCVH! Okay, as of this writing, Halloween hasn't even gotten here. But we have to start planning for our **annual gift-giving to foster children** within the system of the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

There is already a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. **You have until November 2 to sign up to buy a Christmas gift for one or more of these children, who may otherwise not receive anything for the holidays.** We ask that you spend \$30-\$35 for a new UNWRAPPED item. Soon, you will be given the name, gender, age, and *suggested* gift. This information will be supplied by the social worker who works with the child, so they know what the kid will like.

When you sign up, you will be given the opportunity to select gender and age of a child, *if you wish*. You may want to involve a child or grandchild in the gift buying experience and explain why you are doing this.

Maybe you can ask a friend to join us in bringing joy to a kid for Christmas. Is \$30-\$35 too much? Ask someone to join you and each pays half of the cost.

If you are unable to go to the store yourself to purchase the item, just let us know and someone else can do the shopping for you.

Don't forget to sign up!
Jerry Buchanan

**"Getting To Know UU" Class
By appointment with Rev. Betty
Call or email Rev. Betty to schedule your class!**

Join the GNU UUs on a trip to
THE MUSEUM OF JURASSIC TECHNOLOGY
Saturday, November 22
From 1-4PM
9341 Venice Boulevard
Culver City, California 90232
All are welcome! Contact Paula, Rev Betty or
Museum website mjt.org



Spiritual Explorers Group
Sunday, November 9
12:30 to 2 pm

We usually meet on the 2nd Sunday of most months. 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.



Women's Group Potluck Luncheon
Friday, November 14 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 makes UUCVH our church home!

INTERN'S INSPIRATION

Greetings everyone,

As we move into the holiday season, my thoughts turn to radical hospitality, as I think about creating a safe and welcoming space for others - in our hearts, lives, and homes, as well as at our tables.

Creating space for others sounds like it should be easy and completely doable, but it rarely is. In order to truly be hospitable, we must be willing to accept others as they truly are, without trying to change their identities, beliefs, or spirit. This is a tall order in the best of times and even more difficult during the hustle and bustle of the holidays, which can tax us financially, physically, emotionally and spiritually.

We must create an open space within our hearts and spirits to freely offer love, friendship, comfort and acceptance to ourselves, family members, friends, and strangers.

In "Reaching Out: The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life" theologian Henri Nouwen calls this opening up of our inner space "free space." He says:

The paradox of hospitality is that it wants to create emptiness, not a fearful emptiness, but a friendly emptiness where strangers can enter and discover themselves as created free; free to sing their own songs, speak their own languages, dance their own dances; free also to leave and follow their own vocations. Hospitality is not a subtle invitation to adopt the lifestyle of the host, but the gift of a chance for the guest to find his own.

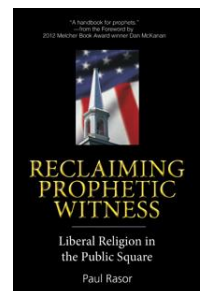
As you think about giving and/or receiving hospitality in the coming months, I hope that you are able to create the inner space to accept and honor yourself and others just as you are, embracing the true essence of each being you may encounter.

Peace and love,
Debbie

ADULT RE COURSE
with Debbie Rice, Ministerial Intern

Monday evenings (Nov. 3, Nov. 10 & Nov. 17) from 7:00-9:00 pm.

We will gather to discuss Paul Razor's *Reclaiming Prophetic Witness: Liberal Religion in the Public Square*. This important and timely work on reclaiming our prophetic voice on the vital issues of our time is the UUA's "Common Read". The meetings will be facilitated by Debbie Rice, Ministerial Intern. I hope everyone will join us for good fellowship and lively discussion and debate!



MOVIE NIGHT



Tuesday, November 18
6:00pm (early start)

It's a Wonderful Life

1946, NR, 132 minutes

Starring:

James Stewart & Donna Reed

(UUCVH THEATRE IS DARK IN
DECEMBER. MOVIE NIGHT RESUMES
IN JANUARY.)



Committee on Ministry
meeting

Wednesday, November 19
at 7:30pm

SACRED WRITING GROUP
With Debbie Rice,
Ministerial Intern

Thursday, November 20
from 7:00- 9:00pm.

The theme for the month will be "hospitality." Please join us as we delve into what hospitality means to us. We will share stories, poems and images about the theme, and then see what bubbles up.

No writing experience is necessary, and the group is open to all!



RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION EDUCATION RE CORNER

This month has been filled with kindness! Literally!

Our children have been exploring the concept of kindness. Last week, they went home with 5 kind things they can do at home for their community or for the earth.

I am so happy to say that all of our children have made a commitment to be caring and loving to all around them.

These values, when instilled at an early age, become deeply engrained in who our children are as they grow up. I feel so blessed to be a part of their learning and a part of such a progressive, intentional community.

It was easy for the children to think of kind things to do because they are witness to kindness in our actions and engagement with those around us.

As the holidays approach, think together how you can spread kindness, whether you bring food to a food bank, serve Thanksgiving dinner, or donate presents for our gift exchange at church... helping your children to be a part of caring for others is a beautiful way to give them hands on experience of being kind.

On another note, we love learning together and one of the children's favorite pastimes is reading together. Our library is growing, but we would love any book donations that specifically address concepts surrounding the UU faith, for example: kindness, caring, equality, learning together etc. If you have a favorite children's book you would like to donate, please see Elizabeth.

Warmly,
Elizabeth Brown



**Contact Elizabeth Brown, Director of Religious Education (DRE),
or RE Committee Chair Cindy Lopez, to donate books to our children's
UUCVH library!**



**Outlook Newsletter
deadline
Friday, November 21, at
10:00AM**

**Internship Committee
Meeting**

Sunday, November 23
from 12:00- 1:00pm.

We get-together on the 4th
Sunday each month through
May 2015.

Chaired by Deane Phinney.

**Worship Committee Meeting
Monday, November 24 from
7:00 – 8:00pm.**



**GNU UUs
Dinner Meeting
Monday, November 17
5:30-7pm**

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

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published monthly by
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**Deadline for copy:
The Friday after the third
Thursday of the month.**

Editor reserves the right to edit for
content and/or space. © 2014
UUCVH



**Third Annual
Potluck Thanksgiving Dinner
Thursday, November 27
1:00 – 4:00 PM
at UUCVH**

Once again, we celebrate Thanksgiving together! Bring your dear family and friends to share food and fellowship -- without all the fuss of cooking the whole dinner yourself.

Each person or family will bring a side dish or two to share. We need several UUCVH chefs willing to cook turkeys for all in lieu of their side dish.

Put your name down on the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall!
See you there!



**Walking the Walk UU Justice Summit
November 14-16, Sausalito, CA**

Registration is open! This exciting statewide conference brings together justice seeking UU's for a weekend of worship, workshops, practical skills, networking and community building. Featuring eco-philosopher and activist Joanna Macy and the Reverend Deborah Holder, Minister of Beloved Community for the UUA Western Region.

Also workshops by outstanding UU leaders will address climate change, housing insecurity, advancing immigrant justice, the human right to water, minimum wage campaigns, multi-faith coalitions, and LGBTQI equality. Spots fill up fast! To register, visit the Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry of California website at uujmca.org.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Contact Florence or Ann K to offer your time and/or talent. We can help find small ways to contribute that make a big difference!

Give our Sunday Volunteers a big THANK YOU when you see them!

They give so much to us that often stays behind-the-scenes – we appreciate you!

Sunday Greeter Volunteers

November 2	Celia Eiben
November 9	Ann Kleinsasser
November 16	Florence Chase
November 23	Tom Stapleford
November 30	Tom/Florence

Sunday Usher Volunteers

November 2	Carol Holst
November 9	Jerry Buchanan
November 16	Volunteer Needed
November 23	Howard Richman
November 30	Terry Richman

Sunday Sound Technician Volunteers

November 2	Jerry Buchanan
November 9	Alan Kleinsasser
November 16	David Tyner
November 23	Jesse Silver
November 30	Mystery Tech

Let the office know who's available for this 5th Sunday!



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23 IT'S TIME TO WELCOME A GUEST AT YOUR TABLE!

Each year our Unitarian Universalist Service Committee asks members and friends of UU congregations throughout our country to participate in a drive to collect money for their many projects throughout the world.

Guest at Your Table is an annual fundraising and education program that supports our Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's human rights work happening all over the world. This year's Guest at Your Table theme is **"food sustainability."** We invite everyone to take part!

To celebrate Guest at Your Table this year, share a meal in the name of food sustainability. Bring your network -- friends, family, colleagues, neighbors, and others -- together for a great cause and to help raise awareness about vital human rights work.

Each time we eat a meal, we are asked to contribute whatever we can to those who need our help. For some of us that will mean putting money in a special box or envelope at our tables, and for others it will be contributing with a check or cash at the end of the project.

And, thanks to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, N.Y., gifts of \$125 or more are eligible to be matched, dollar for dollar, doubling the impact of our support!

Sharing our blessings through Guest at Your Table ensures that UUSC's human rights work continues.

We will be handing out special Guest At Your Table envelopes and "Stories of Hope" booklets at our service on November 23 and collecting contributions at our Christmas Eve or December 28th service. Please join us in this important project.

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is guided by the values of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the principles of Unitarian Universalism, which uphold the inherent worth and dignity of all people.

UUSC champions human rights on many fronts: economic, environmental, political, and social. Visit uus.org for more information. UUSC is an independent human rights organization and receives no financial support from the Unitarian Universalist Association or the federal government.



HOLIDAY WREATH SALE FOR ELIZABETH'S DAUGHTER'S SCHOOL

These beautiful 24" in diameter wreaths are on sale now for \$20.00 each! Photo of actual wreath.

They sell in florists for much more and come delivered fresh to UUCVH on December 7th.

They make wonderful gifts for the upcoming holiday season and half of all the proceeds directly benefit the educators and children at Fair Oaks Preschool in Pasadena!

How to get a Wreath:

1. Place an order on the order sheet.
2. Place a check or cash (with a post-it note and your name on it) in the envelope.
3. Let Elizabeth know that you have placed an order.
4. **The last day to order will be November 9th**
5. Elizabeth will hand **deliver all the wreaths and distribute them at Church on December 7th.**

Thank you so much for your support! – Elizabeth, DRE

MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who participated in our survey and focus groups! We've analyzed the data and have concluded that UUCVH is full of awesome members & friends. Your thoughtful and honest feedback is invaluable!

We have completed the profile of our Congregational Record (CR) and are making good progress with creating our Packet which will include details like our history and samples of our media.

Soon, our District Settlement Representative Ken Collier will be reviewing our CR and Packet. After Ken's review, he will "release" our information to potential Ministers to look at. Likewise, we will have the opportunity to look at the profiles of candidates for our Ministry.

As your Search Team, we are keeping busy with writing and researching these days and we look forward to providing our next update to you. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact us!

Here are a few tidbits from the survey and focus groups...

- Almost half of all UUCVH participants were "Nones" – see Rev Betty's sermon topic for Nov 2nd.
- Intellectual stimulation, sharing common values, and a sense of community are equally strong reasons many attend UUCVH.
- 80% of participants have never attended one of our "Book Groups" – we can change that this Monday, Nov 3rd at 7 PM by joining in UUA's Common Read here at UUCVH.
- 88% of participants highly value creative and artistic gifts in our Sunday Sermons.
- Some of us feel left out at times so, let's remember to reach out and connect with each other!



Your Search Committee Team,

Deane Phinney,
Co-Chair


Terresa Jones,
Co-Chair

Jerry Buchanan

Howard Richman

Roy Lopez

November 2014 at UUCVH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 <i>Daylight Saving Time Ends tomorrow-Set clock tonight</i>
2 Service: 10:30am "Reaching the 'Nones' Potluck Lunch at Noon Shared Ministry 12:30pm Last Day to sign up for foster Children's Gifts! Lee Marie Sanchez Ordination at Throop 4pm	3 Knitting Circle 7pm Adult RE "Reclaiming Prophetic Witness" 7-9pm	4 <i>Election Day!</i> 	5	6 Prayer Breakfast, YMCA 6:30 - 8:30am Membership Committee 11AM-12:30pm	7	8
9 Service: 10:30am "Diary of Adam & Eve" Spiritual Explorer 12:30pm Last Day to order your Holiday Wreath!	10 Adult RE "Reclaiming Prophetic Witness" 7-9pm	11 <i>Veteran's Day</i> 	12	13 Valley Cluster Ministers at Studio City 1pm Board Meeting 7:00pm	14 Walking The Walk, UUJMCA in Sausalito Women's Group Potluck Luncheon, 11:30am Aesthetics following	15 Walking The Walk, UUJMCA in Sausalito
16 Service: 10:30am "How We Got Here" Walking The Walk, UUJMCA in Sausalito	17 UUCVH Staff Meeting 11am-1pm GNU UUs Dinner 5:30pm Adult RE "Reclaiming Prophetic Witness" 7pm	18 Movie Night "It's A Wonderful Life" 6pm	19 Committee on Ministry 7:30pm	20 Sacred Writing Group 7pm	21 Outlook Newsletter Deadline 10am	22 GNU UUs trip to Jurassic Museum of Technology, Culver City 1-4pm, All are Invited!
23 Service: 10:30am "The Spiritual Foundation for Social Justice" Internship Com. 12-1pm Guest At Your Table Kickoff!	24 Worship Committee 7-8pm	25	26	27 3 rd Annual UUCVH Potluck ! THANKSGIVING FEAST 1-4pm 	28	29
30 Service: 10:30am "Radical Hospitality"						

SAVE THE DATE!

Nov 2 Shared Ministry at UUCVH, 12:30–2PM
Nov 2 Lee Marie Sanchez' Ordination at Throop UU, Pasadena, 4PM
Nov 4 Election Day
Nov 6 Interfaith Prayer Breakfast at Crescenta Canada YMCA, 6:30 AM
Nov 9 Spiritual Explorers at UUCVH, 12:30 - 2 PM
Nov 11 Veteran's Day national holiday
Nov 13 Valley Cluster UU Ministers at Studio City UU, 1 – 3 PM
Nov 14 UU Justice Ministry CA "Walking the Walk" Summit
in Sausalito, CA thru Nov 16
Nov 17 UUCVH Staff Meeting, 11 AM - 1 PM
Nov 17 GnuUU Dinner meeting 5:30 – 7 PM
Nov 22 GnuUU Trip to the Jurassic Museum of Technology,
Culver City, 1 - 4 PM. All are welcome!
Nov 19 Committee on Ministry at UUCVH 7:30 – 9 PM
Nov 27 Potluck Thanksgiving Dinner at UUCVH, 1 – 4 PM



the Outlook

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uuverdugo.org

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 to UUCVH!