

the Outlook

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

April 2015
Volume 20, Issue 4



Unitarian Universalist
Church of the Verdugo Hills
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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*



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!

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS 10:30 AM

Children's Religious Exploration Education class concurrent

April 5

"Easter and Passover"
Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford

In most years, including this one, the Christian holiday of Easter and the Jewish holiday of Passover intersect on our calendar. So what is the relationship between these two events and how can their similarities and differences be said to affect our lives today? That is the topic that will engage us on this Sunday. And just to add more color to the day, we will celebrate the uniquely Unitarian ritual of Flower Communion. Join us for this three-in-one event.

Bring a cut Flower for our "Flower Communion" Celebration!

April 12

"The Humanist Manifesto - Past and Present"
Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford

The original Humanist Manifesto was published in 1933, with many Unitarian and Universalist signers. It has had a number of other iterations since then, and its influence on Unitarian theology and thought since those early days has been profound. So we will look at the historical and more recent influences of this document and the continued debt we owe to its creators and later adaptors and adopters.

April 19

"Sowing Seeds of Possibility"
Debbie Rice

Seeds represent new beginnings, creation, and mystery. Henry David Thoreau says, "Though I do not believe that a plant will spring up where no seed has been, I have great faith in a seed. Convince me that you have a seed there, and I am prepared to share wonders." Please join us for my last service at UUCVH, where we will explore the wonder of the seeds that have been planted in our time together, and those that await to be sown.

April 26

"Godness Gracious"
Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford

The G-word is one that we Unitarian Universalists have struggled over for a long time. How can such a little word have caused so much difficulty for us? Whatever we may believe, our discomfort over the idea of bringing "God" out of the closet is something we need to address. And we may just come away with a clearer notion about what we believe and decide it's time to "get over" some things. If Jacob could do it, surely we can.



Thursday, April 2
Membership Committee
11:00 AM



Thursday, April 2
Valley Cluster UU Ministers
at Studio City UU
11:30am - 1:30pm



Sunday, April 5
First Sunday Potluck
11:30am
Please bring a brunch or
salad item to share. By
request, we aim to limit the
offering of sweets.



Sunday, April 5
Shared Ministry Team
12:30 to 2:00 PM

You have a trusted friend to talk
to in confidence!
The Shared Ministry Team at
UUCVH is ready to help with
pastoral care.

For more complicated issues,
contact Rev. Betty for an
appointment. We all want to
support you in living a more
abundant life.

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

"Spring has sprung, fall has fell, summer is coming" and there is a lot going on in our part of the country besides the beautiful weather. So, while you are enjoying all the flowers, butterflies, and trees around you, I would like to make you aware of the many Unitarian Universalist opportunities close at hand.

The most immediate event is the Valley Cluster Leadership Workshop. If you are a current or potential future leader at UUCVH, you need to attend this workshop, sponsored by the UU ministers in our Cluster from Canoga Park, La Crescenta, Santa Clarita, and Studio City. It will be led by Rev. Dr. Ken Brown and will include lots of useful information and tools for determining our congregational mission, faith formation, assessment, and many other things. It will be held at the UU Church of Studio City with a light continental breakfast and drinks to go with your own bag lunch. Please let me know if you are planning to attend or if you need more information.

Next, is our Pacific Southwest District Assembly in Chandler, Arizona from April 24 through 25. This event will provide the chance to participate in a congregational banner parade, outstanding worship services, exciting speakers, informative workshops, a service project, and opportunities to connect with UUs from California, Arizona, and Nevada. Registration is now open, and we would like to have a good representation from UUCVH.

Finally, comes my favorite UU opportunity of the year - the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly. This year it is in Portland, Oregon, from June 24 through 28. At this incredible gathering, 4 to 5 thousand UUs from across the country and the world will join for a vast array of inspiring and informative activities. This will be my 21st. year of consecutive attendance, and I would love to see many of you there! Please talk with me about all the great things for you to do - too many to include in one short article.

Now I know that there are many other things for you to do in the spring and summer this year. But I hope that you will choose at least one of them from those I have suggested above. You will be glad you did!

Blessings,
Rev. Betty

The Wi\$dom Path

April 2 & April 16, from 7:15-9pm

Calling all present and potential future leaders at UUCVH!
This Adult RE class was developed by the UUA President's Council and recently piloted in congregations throughout the U. S. It will help us look at the ways money affects us physically, intellectually, and spiritually in our lives and in the life of our congregation. For more info, contact facilitators: Gary Clark, Alan Kleinsasser, Rev. Betty, or Tom Stapleford.



**Monday, April 6
Staff Meeting
6:30 – 8:00 PM**



**Monday, April 6 at 7 PM
All skill levels welcome.**

Knitting Circle meets in members' homes. Contact Knitting Chair Linda Hunt for details.



**Tuesday, April 7
Committee on Ministry
7:30 – 9:00 PM**



**Friday, April 10
Women's Group Potluck
Lunch at 11:30 AM**

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!

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

April is shaping up to be an exciting and festive month for our congregation. I hope you will be able to participate in all that we have in store!

I always look forward to our Easter service which promises, again this year, to feature the "Flower Communion" ceremony. Started in 1923 by the founder of the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia, Norbert Capek, this ceremony provided a symbolic ritual that would bind people more closely together, without alienating anyone who had forsaken other religious traditions. I love this part of our UU faith that honors and welcomes people from diverse religious backgrounds. I hope you will be able to celebrate with us on Easter Sunday. And I'm sure there will be some special activities for the children in our midst as well.

A little later in the month you will be invited to a fun and festive "Canvass Dinner". What is the Canvass you may ask? Come to this party and find out! This will be a time to enjoy some great food and entertainment while learning about your financial role in supporting our church and all the wonderful things it provides for us and the larger community. Our canvass chair, Cindy Lopez (aka "party planner extraordinaire") has a magnificent Mexican-themed evening planned. Watch for further details, and I hope to see you all there!

We have a special outreach opportunity on Saturday, April 25, when UUCVH will have a booth at the Crescenta Valley "Hometown Country Fair" at Crescenta Valley Park. This is an all day event featuring carnival rides, a car show, live entertainment, a dog parade, pie-eating contest, a wide variety of vendor booths and much more. Our booth will be an opportunity to let people know about our church while providing some fun activities for children and families. The Sidewalk Astronomers group has agreed to set up their telescope as an attraction for our booth. What we will need from you is ideas for activities and displays, and volunteers to take shifts at the booth throughout the day. Watch for sign-ups and please let me know your brilliant ideas for our booth!

I love the sense of community in our congregation, and this month will give us multiple opportunities to celebrate our connections with one another and the larger world.

Ann Kleinsasser

Rev. Betty & Tom will be attending the UU Service Committee Stewardship Circle meeting in Cambridge, Massachusetts, from April 29 through May 1. In case of an emergency needing ministerial coverage, please contact the UUCVH office. Situations needing pastoral care can be addressed to a member of the Shared Ministry Team.



Sunday, April 12
Spiritual Explorers Group
12:30 - 2:00 PM

All are welcome! Come discuss a new spiritual/religious topic each month with openness and respect.



Monday, April 13
Gnu UUs Dinner Meeting
5:00-7:00 PM

Contact Paula Hallowell,
 Chair of the Gnu UUs for info!



Wednesday, April 15
UUCVH Board Meeting
7:00 PM



Friday, April 17
Outlook Newsletter
deadline
 (Always the Friday after the
 3rd Thursday)

COME INTO THE CIRCLE
Chalice Children



This month we are working on the 6th principle. "We believe in working for a peaceful, fair and free world".

For young children it is easiest to pull apart each principle and address the concepts we are exploring. In the first week of exploring the 6th principle we worked on understanding what it means to be "peaceful". We have been exploring color and different colors that make us feel peaceful. The children each chose a color that represented peace in their lives and created beautiful pieces of art while exploring the concept of peace. While this activity may seem simple, it is often the simplest activities that bring out the most conversation. Several of the children were able to clearly identify what it means to feel peaceful, but showed some difficulty understanding peace on a global scale.

For our children to understand peace that is on a larger scale it is important for them to understand friendship, empathy and the ability to understand another's perspective. While these too are complex ideas, they also come quite naturally. Children have a strong desire to relate to others, care for others and understand others. The overall focus of this month's principle will be how to care for one another, and give each other space to explore, dialogue and share. As we move through this principle we are excited to explore what it means to be fair and free.

Keep a look out in our classroom for the beautiful artwork, and creative pieces the children of our UU community are engaged in making.

Wishing you peace!
 Warmly,
 Elizabeth and Rachael

Elizabeth Brown, Director of Religious Exploration Education
Rachael Myers, RE Assistant Teacher

MOVIE NIGHT



Friday, April 17

6:30pm

Hosted by Paula Hallowell

"Cactus Flower"

Rated "R" 103 minutes

Cactus Flower is a 1969 comedy film directed by Gene Saks and starring Walter Matthau, Ingrid Bergman, and Goldie Hawn, who won an Oscar for her performance.

The chemistry works; the movie is better than the play!



Sunday, April 19

Internship Committee Meeting

12:00 - 1:00 PM



Monday, April 20

Worship Committee Meeting

7:00 - 8:00 PM

"Church Bulletin Bloopers"

- "This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar."
- The eighth graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church basement on Friday at 7PM. The congregation is invited to attend the tragedy.
- The pastor would appreciate if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday morning.
- During the absence of our pastor, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when J.F. Stubbs supplied our pulpit.



The 2015 District Assembly will be held April 24-25 at Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Chandler, Arizona (A suburb of Phoenix).

6400 W Del Rio Street, Chandler, AZ 85226

REGISTER BY APRIL 19th

No registrations will be accepted April 20 through 24. If you do not register by April 19, you may register at VUU in Chandler as a "Walk-In" on April 24 or 25.

FEES: NOTE: Fees increase after April 19th!

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Deadline for copy is midnight on the 3rd Thursday of the month.
Editor reserves the right to edit for content and/or space.
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INTERN'S INSPIRATION

Greetings everyone,

I believe that a snapshot of a moment in time captures the mood, feeling, and the essence of an event, often better than words can. With that in mind, I offer you a few photographs, taken by Orlando Rice and a thoughtful UU, as a vehicle for conveying some of the journey's power and import.

Peace and love,
Debbie



Marching in the Arc of Justice:
Re-Visiting Selma



Selma Voting Rights Mural
"Learning From The Past
To Build For The Future"

Watch the Conference
Keynotes, interviews, and
other events at
<http://www.uulivinglegacy.org>



BITS FROM THE BOARD

DRAFT BOARD MEETING MINUTES 3-18-15

Present: President Ann Kleinsasser, Treasurer Gary Clark, Secretary Cindy Lopez, Trustees Howard Richman, Celia Eiben and Patrick Berberian, Minister Rev Betty Stapleford and Office Administrator/Bookkeeper Terresa Jones.

Meeting called to order at 7pm. The chalice was lighted and members checked in.

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 2-18-15 were approved as read.

Agenda: Reviewed, Rev Betty added to New Bus.

Treasurer: Report submitted by Gary Clark. Audit meeting TBA.

Minister: Report of activities for Feb/March distributed and reviewed.

Search Committee: Howard: Candidates being interviewed in-person this weekend and next.

Facilities Usage: Task force met again. Policy and fee scheduled revised & submitted to Board for approval. Some addl language to be added, with regards to certain special events. Gary moved to adopt proposed policy. Celia seconded. Motion carried.

Membership: 2nd Friendship dinner scheduled for 4/18, to be combined with Canvass kickoff.

Old Business:

- Cindy & Roy Lopez to co-chair Canvass Committee. Party scheduled for 4/18.
- CV Fair on 4/25. Booth reserved. Need volunteers to man booth 10-5pm, 2-3 ppl for each 2-3 hr shift.
- 25th Anniversary celebration proposed for the Fall. Committee needed.

New Business:

- Annual meeting scheduled June 7th. Nominating Comm. to publish list of Board noms 30 days prior. Each committee chair to submit brief budget statement/proposal/request to Terresa in time for Annual Report.
- Debbie's last day as Intern Minister is May 31st.
- Rev Betty's last day is June 21st.

The chalice was extinguished and meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 15th, 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Lopez, Secretary

MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

If you've missed the chatter, your Search Committee has been considering all the important factors in calling a new minister to serve us at UUCVH in the fall. We are now nearing the end of this search process. We count on each of you to give thought to what our next ministry will look like.

Soon, we will announce the candidate!

Then, we will invite our candidate to UUCVH for a week long visit. The week will begin with a Sunday sermon and the usual coffee hour afterward. Then, throughout the week, we have plans for everyone to meet and get to know the candidate. Our candidate will also meet with our committees and committee chairs, the Board, and we'll also have some fun events together.

The next Sunday, our candidate will be in the pulpit again. Following this service, our candidate will leave us and we shall hold an all congregation vote whether to Call our candidate to UUCVH as our next Minister.

We are very excited about our future together and invite every member and friend of UUCVH to participate in getting to know our candidate!

With love,
Your Search Committee Team,

Deane Phinney, Co-Chair
Terresa Jones, Co-Chair
Roy Lopez
Vivienne Payne
Howard Richman



SONG OF THE MONTH for April

In our teal hymnal, STJ # 1060

Get the sheet music at www.uuverdugo.org

"As We Sing of Hope and Joy"

As we sing of hope and joy today,
Some know only anguish and despair.
How can we lift our voices in this way
While some have pain and misery to spare?

If a crumbling world we would renew,
We must sing no ordinary song.
Peals from a noisy gong will never do!
We must compose a love-song, warm and strong.

Let this song our greatest hopes contain:
Laughter of a well-fed child its tune,
Roofs over every heartbeat its refrain,
Its harmony from peaceful cities hewn.

Let this song our every footstep guide.
No mere clanging cymbals shall we be!
Under a stone our light we'll never hide,
Nor sing our holy psalms indifferently.

Sing of joy while hammering each nail!
Sing of hope while pulling every weed!
So shall we sing together and prevail:
May every Alleluia bear a seed.

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April 2015 at UUCVH						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
All calendar events take place @ UUCVH unless otherwise noted.			1 <i>April Fool's Day</i> 10-12pm Cleaning service	2 <i>Holy Thursday</i> 1-3pm Cluster Ministers meeting @ Studio City UU 11am Membership Comm. 7:15-9pm "The Wi\$dom Path" Adult Ed, 1 of 2	3 <i>Good Friday</i>	4 <i>Passover begins</i> Financial Audit meeting
5 <i>Easter</i> 10:30am Worship Service "Easter and Passover" 11:30am Potluck Lunch 12:30pm Shared Ministry	6 6:30-8pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Knitting Circle @ member's home	7 <i>World Health Day</i> 7:30-9pm Committee on Ministry meeting	8	9	10 11:30 am Women's Group Potluck Luncheon (Aesthetics following)	11 <i>Passover ends</i>
12 10:30am Worship Service The Humanist Manifesto – Past & Present" 12:30-2pm Spiritual Explorers Group	13 5:30-7pm GNU UUs Dinner meeting @ local restaurant	14	15 <i>Tax Day</i> 7:00pm Board Meeting	16 <i>Holocaust Remembrance Day</i> 7:15-9pm "The Wi\$dom Path" Adult Ed, 2 of 2	17 <i>Outlook Newsletter Deadline</i> 6:30pm Movie Night "Cactus Flower" 10am-1pm Valley Cluster "Leadership Training Workshop" For ALL future leaders of UUCVH @ UU Church of Studio City	18 Fiesta Friendship Party & Canvass Dinner @ UUCVH Watch for details to come!
19 10:30am Worship Service "Sowing Seeds of Possibility" 12-1pm Internship Comm	20 7-8pm Worship Comm	21	22 <i>Earth Day</i>	23	24 PSWD District Assembly, Open to ALL of UUCVH, in Chandler, Arizona, April 24 & 25, discount registration by April 19	25 9:30am-5:30pm UUCVH Booth at the Hometown Country Fair @ Crescenta Valley Park
26 10:30am Worship Service "Godness Gracious"	27	28	29 UU Service Comm Stewardship Circle, Cambridge, Mass. (Rev Betty & Tom, thru May 1)	30		Register now for General Assembly in June @ Portland, Oregon.

SAVE THE DATE!

Apr. 2 Valley Cluster UU Ministers, Studio City UU 1:00-3pm
Apr. 2 Membership Comm 11am
Apr. 2 & 16 "The Wi\$dom Path" Adult Religious Ed Sessions 7:15-9pm
Apr. 4 Finance Audit meeting
Apr. 5 First Sunday Potluck Luncheon 11:30am
Apr. 5 Shared Ministry 12:30-2pm
Apr. 6 Knitting Circle 7pm
Apr. 6 Staff Meeting 6:30-8pm
Apr. 7 Comm on Ministry 7:30pm
Apr. 10 Womens Group Potluck 11:30am
Apr. 10 Aesthetics 12:30pm
Apr. 12 Spiritual Explorers 12:30-2pm
Apr. 13 Gnu UUs Dinner meeting 5:30-7pm
Apr. 15 Board Meeting 7:00pm
Apr. 16 "The Wi\$dom Path" Adult Religious Ed Session 7:15-9pm
Apr. 17 Outlook Newsletter Deadline
Apr. 17 Movie Night 6:30pm "Cactus Flower"
Apr. 17 "Leadership Training Workshop" Studio City 10am-1pm
Apr. 18 Fiesta Dinner Party & Canvass Kickoff @ UUCVH
Apr. 19 Internship Comm at Noon
Apr. 20 Worship Comm 7:00pm
Apr. 24 & 25 PSWD District Assembly, Chandler/Phoenix, Arizona
Apr. 25 UUCVH Booth at the Hometown Country Fair @ CV Park, all day!



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