

the Outlook

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Verdugo Hills

4451 Dunsmore Avenue, La Crescenta, CA 91214

www.uuverdugo.org

July 2015

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Unitarian Universalist Church
of the Verdugo Hills
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Arriving in September
Rev. Gordon C. Bailey
Minister

Elizabeth Brown
Director of
Religious Exploration Education

Ann Kleinsasser, *President*
Roy Lopez, *Vice-President*
Vivienne Payne, *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

July 5 "Blessings in America" Howard Richman, Lay Leader

We continue celebrating our country's Independence Holiday. Members will share stories of our country to honor the many things that make America a great place to live. Many times, we dwell on the short comings that we see and forget to magnify the many wonderful things that this country has provided us with. We will spend this Sunday remembering our many blessings.

July 12 "Reflections From a General Assembly Novice" Debbie Rice, Candidate for UU Ministry

Join us today as I share some of the insights, joys, frustrations, and funny moments from my first GA in Portland. We will highlight some of the crucial knowledge gleaned from the experience, and share some ways that UUCVH might become involved with innovative projects and new ways of doing ministry in the local community and the wider world. If you also have a GA story, please be ready to share it with us.

July 19 "Poetry and More" Ann Kleinsasser, Lay Leader

We have much talent among us, and this Sunday is a chance for some of that creativity to be shared. Come to be inspired by readings of original or favorite works by members of our congregation.

July 26 "Will You Join the Struggle for Racial Justice?" Debbie Rice, Candidate for UU Ministry

We see all too frequently the injustices and hate crimes perpetrated on people of color in our country. This often breaks our hearts and makes us angry, for a little while at least, but it doesn't always stir us to action. Why do well-meaning, good-hearted people find it difficult to stand in solidarity with people of color? How can we move beyond our own feelings of guilt, shame, apathy, frustration, anger, helplessness, and confusion to truly be allies with those in the struggle for racial justice? Let's begin an honest discussion on what we can do to become better allies in the quest for justice for **All**.

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



The Gnu UUs

Are taking a break for summer. Our next gathering will be in September.

See you then!

-- Paula



Thursday, July 2

Membership Committee

11:00am

Come build connections with other members and newcomers!



Sunday, July 5

First Sunday Potluck

11:30am

Please bring a brunch or salad item to share.



Monday, July 6

Knitting Circle

7:00pm

All skill levels welcome.

Knitting Circle meets in members' homes. Contact Ann K. with your interest.

"SUNDAY MORNING"

While living in the sleepy town of Croton-on-Hudson, New York just after the birth of our daughter, Lisa, Sunday mornings meant breakfast in the warm and cozy Country Breadboard with snow swirling outside. For the next several years, after moving to Putnam Valley, we were Sunday morning regulars at the locally famous Grandma's Pie Shop, where Lisa got treats while we waited to be seated, and the host knew her by name.

But then, as Lisa got to be school age, we wanted something more meaningful for our Sunday mornings. We began attending the nearby Unitarian Fellowship where we found a warm and inspiring group of people of all ages, with a large and active Religious Education program. Sunday mornings became a respite from the pace of the week, a chance to gaze out the wall-to-wall windows at the surrounding woods and enjoy the beauty of the changing seasons, while being inspired by the varied and interesting programs. Of course, not every moment was peaceful bliss, as we became actively involved in the workings of church life and often spent potluck Sundays corralling children from straying too far into the woods. Even so, attending fellowship and connecting with other UUs was a special time that we looked forward to each week.

Today, Sunday mornings mean enjoying the beauty of our UUCVH sanctuary as morning sun illuminates the beautiful stained glass window graciously donated by Charlotte Dufresne Holley in memory of her husband Jacques Dufresne. Sharing the ritual of the service, hearing inspirational words, listening to music, feeling a connection with people of shared values is a special time I treasure. I hope that you find Sunday morning in our congregation to be a renewing experience each week, as I do. Gathering together in this way is an integral part of the many ways we support and benefit from UUCVH.

"See you at church!"

Ann Kleinsasser



Wednesday, July 15

UUCVH Board Meeting

7:00pm

Meetings of the Board of Trustees are open for observation to all members of UUCVH. Join us to learn about the leadership and organization of UUCVH!

COME INTO THE CIRCLE

Chalice Children



Elizabeth is beautifully working with all of our kids in a fun and dynamic UU curriculum of activities that explore values and emotional development. Check out Elizabeth's monthly column at our website:

<http://www.uuverdugo.org/youth-ministry-update>

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

Thursday, July 9
MOVIE NIGHT
6:30pm

Hosted by Paula Hallowell



"The Secret of Roan Inish"
1993 PG 102 minutes

When 10-year-old Fiona (Jeni Courtney) learns how her ancestors came to leave the island of the seals, Roan Inish, she discovers there may be magic afoot in her family tree, in writer-director John Sayles' (Limbo, Lone Star) fable for all ages.

This Celtic fairy tale -- about folkloric, aquatic creatures that are half human and half seal -- includes breathtaking images of Ireland's coastline.

Don't throw away your old printer ink!
Bring 'em to church!



Bring your used ink & toner cartridges to church for recycling!
Your effort provides us a 10% discount on office supplies and also keeps those cartridges out of our landfills.

Look for the **Ink Recycling box**
in Fellowship Hall right next to our
Lost & Found box.

Thank you!



Friday, July 10
Women's Group Potluck
12:00 - 1:30pm

Contact Deane Phinney for info. Or, just show up for potluck lunch!

*Aesthetics Committee following.

The Outlook Newsletter is published monthly by
The Unitarian Universalist Church of the Verdugo Hills

www.uuverdugo.org

Article submissions & announcements can be submitted for consideration by all members and friends!

Email your typed & proof-read articles to the office at
uucvh@uuverdugo.org

Deadline for submissions is Friday, July 17.
(Always the Friday after the 3rd Thursday of the month.)
Editor reserves the right to edit for content and/or space.
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**COMING UP IN OUR
UU DISTRICT**



August 8 – 12

Register Now for the
5th Annual

**Walking the Walk 2015
Justice Summit & Family
Camp**

Event held at Camp
deBenneville Pines
41750 Jenks Lake Rd W
Angelus Oaks, CA 92305

To Register:

<http://uujmca.org/walkingthe-ewalk>



PSWD

August 15-19

"Singing in the Pines"

Camp de Benneville Pines

Transform yourself through singing. Come to Choir Camp! If you are a director looking for repertoire for your church, a current choir member looking to dedicate 4 days to singing, a songwriter or musician looking to become more deeply involved in Unitarian Universalist music, then this camp is for you. To register, go to uucamp.org and click on "Register for Camp".

**Tuesday, July 14
Roy Zimmerman in Concert
at UUCVH!
7:00pm**

**Roy Zimmerman in "The
Faucet's on Fire!"**

Suggested donation \$18 or give
what you can.



Roy Zimmerman sings satirical songs: original songs about class warfare, creationism, same-sex marriage, guns, marijuana, abstinence, Republicans (a lot of songs about Republicans), ignorance, war, and greed. The Los Angeles Times says, "Zimmerman displays a lacerating wit and keen awareness of society's foibles that bring to mind a latter-day Tom Lehrer." Tom Lehrer himself says, "I congratulate Roy Zimmerman on reintroducing literacy to comedy songs. And the rhymes actually rhyme; they don't just 'rhyme.'"

In twelve albums over twenty years, and on stages, screens, and airwaves across America, Roy 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, and he's a featured blogger for the Huffington Post. His videos have garnered nearly seven million views on YouTube.



**Tom Stapleford marches our UUCVH banner in the
opening day procession of General Assembly 2015
in Portland, Oregon!**

Camp de Benneville Pines

We've all been hearing about the "lake fire" recently in the mountains near our wonderful UU District Camp. Here's the latest update from our district camp manager Janet James

Today's report. (June 24, 2015)

Hello Camp Friends and Supporters:

Those of us who stayed behind in the evacuation have certainly seen a lot this past week, and we have watched men and women work so very hard to save structures and the wilderness. Hot shot teams from many western areas hike up into the wilderness behind our camp to fight the fire up on the peaks.

Last night one of the firefighters up on a peak was injured and had to be helivaced out. The parking lot had several emergency teams ready to hike up the mountain in case the extraction didn't go well. Thankfully, the extraction and transport in the dark and smokey sky was successful. The hot shots are up on a very treacherous part of the mountain behind the camp--well over 8000 or 9000 feet. I am amazed at what they do.

For several days these teams have been carving fire breaks in strategic areas to direct the fire purposefully in certain directions where the fire can then be managed by airdrops or burn out naturally. At around 6 pm each day, team after team of charcoal-faced hot shots appear hiking out of the woods and through camp to the parking lot. They load on buses and are transported to Big Bear High School where they are fed and housed.

Camp dog, Daisy Doodle, has fallen in love with a USFS fire supervisor from Inyo County/Mt Whitney District. I can see why. He is a total dog lover...each night he appears with doggie treats and rough houses with her a bit. Last night Daisy and I were in the office, and she was asleep. All evening I could hear vehicles coming and going in the parking lot. But, I imagine she has a strong sense hearing, and when his vehicle pulled up in the parking lot, she made a dash to the door. She literally leapt into the arms of her favorite firefighter. But, as these things happen spontaneously, so too, they come to a quick end when lives are on the line. And this team was on standby to make certain that everything went correctly for the evacuation of the injured firefighter. I took Daisy back to the office where I worked at my desk til midnight, and she slept on the floor--possibly dreaming of bacon treats and her friendly firefighter.



Hwy 38 is still closed as I type this report at 3:30 pm. The official word is that we still have some hot spots and some dangerous areas they are working on. Public safety is number one for the USFS, and I have heard over and over again, "No tree is worth a human life." What a nice thing to hear, especially from people who protect our natural resources for a living. The cause of the fire has not been determined, and the investigation is ongoing. If you are familiar with the area to the west of our green water tank, and above our water tank, this is the area closest to camp where the fire burned. Then the flames raced up the mountain and to the east from that point. We are so fortunate that the fire did not start down lower on the ridge and more west of us.



We still have few crews in camp who are pumping water up the mountain to the fire fighters, and teams of people who are going into the woods with shovels and picks to turn over trees and stumps to make sure the hot spots are out. You can imagine that this is a slow, difficult and dirty process.



We hope to have Camp Bravo Week 3 back in camp this Sunday, June 27; and with any luck, they will let the camp staff who evacuated off the mountain back to camp tomorrow, Thursday. They are thinking of opening the hwy some time tomorrow. It will be nice to have the rest of the staff return.

We expect the PSWD camps to be operating fully starting July 5th with Elementary Camp. We continue to take registrations for our adult camps in August. And for those of you who have expressed dreams of coming back up to camp, I hope you will log onto our website, www.uucamp.org, and click on all the wonderful August events we have going on: Social Justice Family Camp, PSWIRL Farewell Camp, UU Choir Camp, and Art Groove all have outstanding programs, cater to adult interests, and available space. What a great way to support the camp in the aftermath of what has been a devastating loss on so many levels. Sign up for a summer camp adventure in August and help us fill the camp and support the business of camping!

I am not alone on the mountain top. The camp staff continue to watch over your beloved de Benneville Pines. Curtis, Steve, and Chris have remained here with me the entire time. Dan, Jackie, Reed and Niki were here part of the time. Oh yes, Daisy Doodle too. Your well wishes and prayers have meant a lot to us.

Janet James,
Camp Manager

**ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES, Draft
JUNE 7, 2015**



Meeting called to order by Pres Ann Kleinsasser at 12:25pm. 17 members present.

Reviewed minutes from last year's annual meeting. Minutes stood approved as presented.

President's Report: "Year of changes." Search committee and outgoing Board recognized and thanked for year of service.

Final Minister's Report given by Rev Betty Stapleford.

Special meeting of congregation was held on 5/24/15. 26 members unanimously voted to call Rev Gordon Bailey to serve as new minister, beginning in Sept.

Finance Committee Report/Budget 2015-2016 presented by committee chair, Alan Kleinsasser. Goal is to decrease draw from investments, need more growth and increased continuing pledges. Motion put forth to approve budget, seconded, motion carried.

Nomination Committee/Board Election by Tom Stapleford. Motion put forth to elect via show of hands (no secret ballot), seconded, motion carried. Nominees read aloud. Motion put forth to accept slate as presented, seconded, and carried.

Remaining Committee & Activity Group Reports presented: Aesthetics, Gnu UUs & Movie night (Paula), Canvass (Ann), Hospitality (Celia), Internship & Membership (Florence), RE (Cindy), Women's Group (Deanne), Knitting Circle (Frances). Worship & Social Action committees need chair & more support. Committees to re-form under Rev Bailey: Shared Ministry & Spiritual Explorers.

Prop Mgmt.: Emergency Evac Plan needed. Ann will put on agenda for Board mtg.

Senate bill (now passed, onto Assembly): End of Life Option Act. Proposed by Terry Richman to discuss endorsement as a congregation. TBD at a later date, before Sept.

Meeting closed at 1pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Lopez, Secretary

July 30th International Day of Friendship

The world is filled with too much hatred, too much fighting and too much mistrust of others. The International Day of Friendship is certainly an opportunity to stop, and to reverse, these worldwide problems.

The United Nations, official sponsor of this special day, celebrates the International Day of Friendship to promote friendship among peoples, cultures and countries. Today is a time to encourage efforts towards peace, and to build bridges among different people. It is a day of respect for others, and a day to celebrate diversity. On this day people, groups and governments should hold events and activities to promote mutual understanding and reconciliation.

On an individual level, use this day to promote friendship in big and small ways. You can begin by "extending an olive branch" to a sibling or a family member, a neighbor, or an old friend who we've had a falling out with. If we all try just a little, the world will be a better, more peaceful place.

The origin of International Day of Friendship has roots as far back as 1919 in the United States. The country of Paraguay first celebrated this day on a national level on July 30, 1958. In 2011, the United Nations declared this an official international day, to be celebrated annually on July 30th.



BOARD MEETING MINUTES, Draft June 17, 2015

Present: President Ann Kleinsasser, Treasurer Gary Clark, Secretary Pro tem Celia Eiben, Trustees Howard Richman and Patrick Berberian, Minister Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford, Congregational Administrator Terresa Jones.

Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m. The chalice was lighted and members checked in.

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 5-20-15 were approved as read.

Treasurer: Report submitted by Gary. 27 pledges have been received for the new fiscal year.

The 2015-16 Board will have Alan, Gary, Howard, Roy as signatories for the checking account. Gary cited increasing cost of insurance and that ministerial expenses will be higher next year. Ann to discuss fund raising at the Retreat. Paula requested money from Continuity Fund for double-doors in upstairs hallway. Gary, Alan, Terresa will be meeting to finalize the Budget.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried that we replace Cindy with Roy as a signatory.

Minister: Rev. Betty presented copies of her June Activities. Ann thanked Rev. Betty for all she had done for us in helping us to grow. Rev. Betty has passed on information of all her local community contacts to Rev. Gordon. Rev. Betty & Tom will be Delegates at General Assembly in Portland and will send a report to us.

RE Committee: Request update children's equipment—some expense may be by fund raising.

Worship Committee: Howard, Ann, and Yvonne met to organize the summer Worship. Chairperson needs to be elected for the Committee.

Old Business:

Rev. Gordon expressed interest in the Outreach Program to be discussed at the Retreat. Terresa to email minister's contract to Board. Ann commended and thanked Terresa and her team for the successful Ice Cream Social.

New Business:

Paula reported that the Fire Inspector came by. Certification to be issued once the four bulbs in exit signs are replaced. Also, the leaking toilet has been fixed. Terresa talked with Paula about Fire & Earthquake Drills. Terresa shall update First Aid Kits.

Facilities Committee: Ann, Terresa, Paula & Deane updated policy recently. Need outreach to rent our facilities once adequate insurance is provided for our building. Further study insurance issue.

Rev. Betty mentioned the Chalice in Sanctuary is leaking oil and needs fixing. Ask Paula for advice.

The chalice was extinguished and meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thurs. July 15, @ 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Celia Eiben, Secretary Pro tem

July 2015 at UUCVH						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
All events take place at UUCVH unless otherwise noted			1 10-12pm Cleaning Service, facilities not available.	2 11am Membership Committee	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i>
5 10:30am Worship Service "Blessings in America" BTAC Donations collected during service! 11:30am Potluck Lunch	6 7:00pm Knitting Circle @ member's home	7	8	9 6:30pm Movie Night "Secret of Roan Inish"	10 11:30am Women's Group Potluck Luncheon	11
12 10:30am Worship Service "Reflections From a General Assembly Novice" <i>Debbie Rice</i> BTAC Donations collected during service!	13	14 7:00pm Roy Zimmerman in Concert "Faucet's On Fire!"	15 7pm Board Meeting	16	17 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	18
19 10:30am Worship Service "Poetry and More" BTAC Donations collected during service!	20	21	22 !	23	24	25
26 10:30am Worship Service "Will You Join the Struggle for Racial Justice?" <i>Debbie Rice</i> BTAC Donations collected during service!	27	28	29	30 <i>International Day of Friendship</i>	31	

SAVE THE DATE!

July 2 Membership Comm 11am
July 4 *Independence Day*
July 5 "Blessings In America" 10:30am
July 5 Potluck Salad Luncheon 11:30am
July 6 Knitting Circle 7:00pm
July 9 Movie Night "Secret of Roan Inish"
July 10 Women's Group Potluck Lunch 11:30am
July 12 "Reflections From a G.A. Novice" 10:30am
July 14 Roy Zimmerman Concert 7:00pm
July 15 Board Meeting 7:00pm
July 17 Outlook Newsletter deadline
July 19 "Poetry and More" 10:30am
July 26 "Join the Struggle for Racial Justice" 10:30am
July 30 *International Day of Friendship*
August 8 - 12 "Walking the Walk" Justice Summit
August 15 - 19 "Singing In The Pines" DeBennville Pines



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