

# the Outlook

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Verdugo Hills

4451 Dunsmore Avenue, La Crescenta, CA 91214

[www.uuverdugo.org](http://www.uuverdugo.org)

August 2015

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Unitarian Universalist Church  
of the Verdugo Hills  
818.248.3954  
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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*

### August 2

#### **"Assisted Suicide - Before you Decide..." Rev. Olivia Bareham**

The 'Death with Dignity' Act allows physicians to prescribe suicide drugs for those facing terminal illness. This offers a comforting 'solution' to those fearing pain, suffering and dependence at the end-of-life. But, what are the spiritual implications to making this choice? Are we perhaps denying ourselves the most valuable of all life's lessons? Join Death Midwife, Rev. Olivia Bareham for an invigorating conversation, as we look closer at this delicate and difficult decision.

### August 9

#### **"Activating Hope" Debbie Rice, Candidate for UU Ministry**

How can we keep hope alive when we are faced with heartbreaking injustice? We will explore the ways we can activate hope and healing in our struggle for racial justice and equality for all. We will also share stories about what other UU congregations are doing to be effective allies for people of color. Let's continue the conversation about ways we can truly embody our seven Principles!

### August 16

#### **"Compassion in Human Relations: the Hard Principle" Eric Kleinsasser**

Buddhism emphasizes cultivating unconditional compassion. This is achieved through intensive practice and the ultimate realization that the "self" as we see it is an illusion. Difficult as it may be to reconcile these notions with mainstream Western ideas about the self, it should be worth our while to try—after all, the second UU principle encourages "compassion in human relations." Today we'll explore one Western philosopher's perspective about the Buddhist "self-illusion," and its significance in developing a better culture of empathy in our modern world.

### August 23

#### **"Crossing Thresholds" Debbie Rice, Candidate for UU Ministry**

We constantly build both literal and figurative walls for ourselves, keeping emotions, thoughts, feelings, and even people at bay. Finding ways to cross borders and thresholds opens up pathways to connection, peace, hope, and love. Let's cross thresholds and knock down some walls today!

### August 30

#### **"End of Life Options Campaign" Stefanie Elkins, Compassion & Choices**

Californians overwhelmingly support a law that will allow terminally ill, mentally competent Californians, to access the end-of-life medical option of aid in dying. Come learn more about End of Life Option Act in CA.



### **The Gnu UUs**

We're off for the summer.  
 Next gathering in September.  
 See you then!  
 -- Paula



### **Sunday, August 2 First Sunday Potluck 11:30am**

Please bring a brunch or  
 salad item to share.



### **Monday, August 3 Knitting Circle 7:00pm**

All skill levels welcome.  
 Knitting Circle meets in  
 members' homes. Contact  
 Ann K. with your interest.



### **Thursday, August 6 Membership Committee 11:00am**

Come build connections with  
 other members and  
 newcomers!

## **PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE**

We now find ourselves in the midst of an unusual time, having just said farewell to one minister in June, and waiting to welcome a new minister in September. So what is happening on Sunday mornings during this summer interim?

We are fortunate and happy that our former ministerial intern (and now graduate of the Claremont School of Theology), Debbie Rice, has agreed to fill several of our Sunday services. And, we will have two other guest speakers this month. But, on several of our summer Sundays, we are hearing speakers from within our own congregation. This is such a wonderful way for us to get to know each other better, hearing original writings, poems, opinions, viewpoints--even when we take turns sharing the works of others, we are brought closer together through the reading and listening process.

During a service last month congregation members read the opinions of local clergy from the "In Theory" column in the Glendale News Press. It is enlightening to find areas of agreement as well as disagreement in these writings, and helps us gain insight into how others approach issues of the day. We've also heard from members of the congregation who shared original creative works and favorite poems as well as thoughts on the merits of our country; this month one of our younger members will share a bit of Western philosophy on the "understanding of the self".

These collaborative services always seem to spark thought and conversation, and possibly some questions to ponder together. Sounds like a wonderful way to spend a Sunday morning! After all...thinking, discussing, questioning...aren't these the things that we UUs love best?

Ann Kleinsasser



### **Wednesday, August 19 UUCVH Board Meeting 7:00pm**

Meetings of the Board are open for observation  
 to all members of UUCVH.

Join us to learn about the leadership and organization of UUCVH!

## CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION

By Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey

### Living into the Covenantal Community

Greetings to my members and friends of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Verdugo Hills. I'm almost there! I've been pondering many things about our future together; most of all how to have the very best relationship with you that is humanly possible.

Despite the fact that Unitarian Universalist (UU) worship's roots are in Protestant Christian liturgical traditions and practice, there is a critical difference between the meaning of UU worship, and membership, and the meaning understood by other traditions with Protestant identities. This is even greater if you come from another Christian sect, religion or no faith at all. It is a difference between worship experience founded on covenant and worship founded on creeds. This distinction is critical to our free faith, and answers basic questions about why we choose to be UU – and, most importantly, why you are a member and friend of UUCVH.

This is my first of many letters to you all. This is my first attempt to set the stage for right relationship henceforward and I feel it is really important to get started on the right foot. This congregation called me and I am so honored. I heard a clarion call and in that understanding, I felt a strong pull to take us to a new place. Not one that we wouldn't know or understand but one in which our collective abilities to engage this community and the larger Unitarian Universalist world in a dialog of love and pursuit of action, justice, peace, covenant and right relationship.

Who we are as individuals and as a congregation shall be revealed to you and me as we take steps toward a new beginning. Who are you, within your community when you gather on Sunday morning or Saturday afternoon, or Wednesday night, or any of the other times that we gather? Who are you, as a religious body? And, who are we yet to become?

These are some questions that a closer look at our vision statement, mission, and covenantal contract will help us ascertain, answer, and articulate in positive ways. For, as the biblical prophet once said, "Without a vision, then the people will perish." It is also true that if you don't know where you're going, then any road will take you there. Without knowing why we bother to gather, and to be a community, this congregation could one day be in danger of ceasing to exist, or of merely replicating the local university's continuing education program, or the local debating society, or the local country club.

If we don't know who we are as individual Unitarian Universalists forward progress is difficult. One of the keys is knowing who you are as a member of this congregation and denomination, and then living into the **collective** UUCVH vision for our faith community. That, in part, is what makes us different. It helps to differentiate us from the countless other religious options. It makes us special and even more relevant in these times.

I believe in us: you and me. Lisa and I are on our way to be part of your beautiful community. One in which Unitarian Universalist values, morés and actions direct our feet toward the ultimate goals of creating spiritually rewarding worship experiences, beloved community and world peace. I guess I have lofty goals in mind for us. I hope you do too.

I expect to be in place and announcing office hours very soon. Check our website and Facebook pages, as I will begin to share thoughts and ideas with the community very soon.

I am totally excited about our new ministry and journey together. I trust you are too! Get ready everyone; we've got a lot to do!

In peace and love,  
Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey



**August 8 – 12  
Walking the Walk 2015  
Justice Summit & Family  
Camp**

at Camp deBenneville Pines  
To Register:  
[uujmca.org/walkingthewalk](http://uujmca.org/walkingthewalk)



**Friday, August 14  
Women's Group Potluck  
11:30am**

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



**August 15-19  
"Singing in the Pines"  
Camp de Benneville Pines**

Hello Singers, Come to the Unitarian Universalist Singing in the Pines Choir Camp. 4 days and nights of singing & enjoying the camp! I hope to share a wonderful time making music together with you. For More info contact the camp at [registrar@uucamp.org](mailto:registrar@uucamp.org) 909 794 2928  
Or, give me a call! Scott Roewe [scott.roewe@gmail.com](mailto:scott.roewe@gmail.com) 310 739 4132.



**Sunday, August 9**

**Summer Potluck Indoor -Picnic**, right after church service!  
Sponsored by our Children's RE Committee

RE Committee provides burgers & hot dogs.  
See the bright yellow sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall to volunteer to bring condiments, side dishes, etc.

Spread the word & let's make this a fun event for all & help support Elizabeth & all our wonderful children!

See you there!  
Cindy, RE Comm. Chair



The air awakens the follicles!

Vickie and I attended the UU General Assembly in Portland (as alternate delegates) this year. This was my first UU General Assembly experience, and the second for Vickie. At GA, one has the experience of being surrounded by lots of other UUs.

We are fortunate to have an event where there are many workshops or seminars where UUs from around the globe can present their activities and efforts in various areas, they can describe their efforts to put UU principles into action, and perhaps evoke feedback from other participants.

Among the sessions I attended were "Religious Bullying," "UU Entrepreneurial Outreach," and "Accompanying and Providing Witness With Indigenous Mayas in Guatemala."

Vickie generally attended different sessions. Our paths finally crossed at the "Dementia and Alzheimer" session.

Part of the value of GA is the encounters and conversations that one has with fellow UUs. I had several, and I appreciate them. General Assembly seems to be a great place to experience the synergy of Unitarian Universalist minds.

Gary N. Clark

## COME INTO THE CIRCLE

### *Chalice Children*



Spiritual practices aren't just for adults. Children come naturally to many of the time-honored ways that people use to get closer to the sacred; to family, friends, and community; and to the world around them. They can teach adults about being present, enthusiasm, imagination, play, and wonder—to name just a few. Here are some ideas for how parents and other adults can encourage children's spirituality.

- 🌻 Give thanks before you eat, not just for the food, but also for everything that contributed to your having this meal--the earth, the rain, the sun, the farmer, the store, the cook, even the cooking equipment. Gratitude is an essential spiritual practice.
- 🌻 When watching television or a video, choose a favorite or interesting character and “step into the story” to see how you would act in his or her place. This exercise uses imagination and supports compassion for others and hospitality toward the media.
- 🌻 When doing chores, such as picking up toys or putting away the dishes, imagine that you are returning these things to their homes where they will be more comfortable. Reframing chores in this way teaches reverence for your surroundings, kindness, and nurturing.
- 🌻 Experiment with silence by lying on the ground for 15 minutes without saying anything. Pay attention to what you are thinking about. Then notice the reports of your senses of sight and smell. This is the practice of wonder.
- 🌻 Practice meaning by choosing symbolic names for your home and your room.
- 🌻 At bedtime, identify one good thing and one bad thing that happened during the day. For children, these are times to practice enthusiasm and forgiveness. For parents, these are opportunities to practice openness and listening.
- 🌻 Have a moon-viewing party, complete with special food and costumes appropriate to the season of the year. Talk about the beauty of the natural world. Then imagine how the moon sees the world, an exercise that teaches connections and the unity of all Creation.

These ideas are part of the Alphabet of Spiritual Literacy. Try them! (Excerpted from “Encouraging Children's Spirituality” at [spiritualityandpractice.com](http://spiritualityandpractice.com))

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



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!



The Unitarian Universalist Church  
of the Verdugo Hills publishes the  
*Outlook* Newsletter monthly  
[www.uuverdugo.org](http://www.uuverdugo.org)

Notice a goof in the newsletter?  
Please email corrections to the  
office. Thank you!

All members and friends may  
submit articles & announcements  
for consideration!

Email your proofread articles to the  
office at [uucvh@uuverdugo.org](mailto:uucvh@uuverdugo.org)

Deadline for submissions is Friday,  
August 21.

Editor reserves the right to edit for  
content and/or space. UUCVH ©  
2015



**October 16-18**

**LA Valley Cluster UU Church Retreat**  
at de Benneville Pines!

Email for info: [Clustercamp@ymail.com](mailto:Clustercamp@ymail.com)



**Sunday, August 30**

**Congregational Meeting**  
**Fellowship Hall, following the service**

The UUCVH board has been asked to consider  
having our church go on record in support of  
California Senate Bill 128, the End-of-Life  
Option Act. We have two speakers this month, on August 2 and  
August 30, who will address and inform us on aspects of this issue.  
After the service on August 30, we hold a congregational meeting to  
discuss and decide if we want to go on record in support of this bill.  
Please plan to join us as we consider this important issue.



**The 10th Anniversary Celebration of the Crescenta-Canada  
Democratic Club was held on July 12.**

Clockwise: Dene Henry (son of Paula Oliver) and his wife,  
Edith Young, Jerry Reynolds (membership chair & past president of  
CCDC), Florence Chase, Yvonne Brossus-Fisher,  
Vickie Guagliardo, Gary Clark.

**Check out the terrific work done by Dustin Hunt**

and his crew of fellow Boy Scouts.

They accomplished a huge task cleaning up the side yard & beautifying the space for us to use!

Congratulations, Dustin on your Eagle Scout Project!

Take a walk through and enjoy the new yard!



Before



Before



After (WOW!)





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**FREE Summer Concerts**

**Memorial Park**

**1301 Foothill Blvd., La Canada-Flintridge**

**Sundays from 6-8pm, free street parking**

-  **August 2 – Latin Jazz & Salsa -- Susie Hansen Latin Band**
-  **August 9 – Jimmy Buffet -- Gary Seiler & the Coast Riders**
-  **August 16 – Tribute to Neil Diamond -- Hot August Night (ends at 8:30pm)**
-  **August 23 – Country -- Brian Lynn Jones & The Misfit Cowboys (ends at 8:30pm)**



What's on your Summer Bucket List?  
Save a sample of water to bring & share at  
our Ingathering Water Ceremony in  
September!



No Movie Night in August.  
Movie Maven Paula will re-open our  
theatre in September after a well-deserved  
summer break!

This page intentionally blank.  
Please use it to write a poem or draw a  
pretty picture!







## August 2015 Multi-Cultural Calendar

(With very brief descriptions – there's always more to learn of culture)

**August 1 – Lughnasadh** -- Pagan observance of first harvest of the year involving agricultural festivals and prosperity magick celebrating the Celtic Sun God Lugh. The Christian name of Lammas is sometimes used. **Lammas** – Celtic Christian tradition of first fruits celebration by placing bread from the first harvest on the altar.

**August 6 – Transfiguration** -- Orthodox Christian celebration of when Jesus became radiant, and communed with Moses and Elijah on Mount Tabor.

**August 9 -- International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples.** The focus this year is "Indigenous peoples building alliances: Honoring treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements."

**August 13 – 15 – Obon** -- Buddhist commemoration of ancestors. Ancestors' spirits return to this world in order to visit relatives. Lanterns are hung in front of homes to guide the ancestors' spirits. At the end of Obon, floating lanterns are put into rivers, lakes and seas to guide the spirits back into their world.

**August 15 -- Dormition of the Theotokos** -- Orthodox Christian honor of the death and burial of the Virgin Mary.

**Assumption of the Virgin Mary** -- Roman Catholic Christian observance commemorating the belief that the Blessed Virgin Mary was assumed body and soul into heaven at the end of her earthly life.

**August 17 -- Marcus Garvey Day** -- Birthday of the Jamaican politician and activist revered by Rastafarians. Garvey is credited with starting the Back to Africa movement, which encouraged those of African descent to return to the land of their ancestors during and after slavery in North America.

**August 26 -- Women's Equality Day** commemorates the August 26, 1920 certification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which gave women the right to vote. Congresswoman Bella Abzug first introduced a proclamation for Women's Equality Day in 1971. Since that time, every president has published a proclamation recognizing August 26 as Women's Equality Day.

**August 29 -- Raksha Bandhan** -- Hindu holiday commemorating the loving kinship between a brother and a sister. Raksha means protection in Hindi. During the celebration, a sister ties a string around her brother's (or brother-figure's) wrist, and asks him to protect her. The brother gives the sister a gift and agrees to protect her for life.

**August 21, 2 pm-4 pm -- Hispanic Council on Federal Employment Meeting**, Washington, DC  
<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2014/02/12/2014-02989/hispanic-council-on-federal-employment>

**August 24-27 -- Blacks in Government (BIG) National Training Conference**, Orlando, FL <http://www.bignet.org>

**August 29 Full Moon** – Green Corn Moon at 11:37 am (pacific time)

**August 30 – September 7 -- Paryushana Parva** -- Jain festival signifying human emergence into a new world of spiritual and moral refinement. Marked by recitations from Jain sacred writing and family exchange of cards and letters. Celebration of the natural qualities of the soul. The 8th day (Samvatsari) is most important and is focused on forgiveness.



## UUCVH DRAFT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

7-15-15

**Present:** President Ann Kleinsasser, Vice President Roy Lopez, Treasurer Gary Clark, Secretary Pro tem Celia Eiben, Trustee Howard Richman, Congregational Administrator Terresa Jones.  
Absent: Pat Berberian

Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m. and members checked in.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on 6-17-15 were approved as read.

**Treasurer:** Report submitted by Gary. Gary reported that we have spent more than our income.

Roy Lopez has replaced Cindy as signatory, and he will complete the Audit. Pres. Ann thanked Gary and Terresa for investigating the rental property for Rev. Gordon. Terresa reported that almost all members turned in their pledges. Terresa will send letters to members on the status of pledges and Ann will talk to Membership Committee on pledges of new members.

**Worship Committee:** We need a Chairperson. We have two speakers on “*End of Life Options*” (*Bill SB 128*) coming up in August and we will have a congregational meeting after the service on Aug 30.

### **Old Business:**

Paula reported that she is working on getting us up to code to be approved by the Fire Dept. Pres. Ann talked to Paula about a Fire Drill and one will be planned for Sept 6.

### **New Business:**

Betsy Burcham attended the meeting to suggest that since the Boy Scouts had cleaned up the back yard, we install a fence so that the back yard can be used as a play area for the children. Pres. Ann will talk to contractors, get estimates and include finding out our property line.

Committee on Ministry: Discussed role of the Committee on Ministry and possible conflicts with Board Members being on Committee.

Sunday Service Protocol: We need to be aware that we need to start Services on time.

Next Board Retreat: Will be planned for a Saturday in September.

**Next Meeting:** Wed. Aug. 19, 2015 @ 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Celia Eiben, Secretary Pro tem

August 2015 at UUCVH						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>All events take place at UUCVH unless otherwise noted</b>						<b>1</b> <i>Lughnasadh</i>
<b>2</b> 10:30am Worship Service: "Assisted Suicide - Before you Decide" <i>Rev Olivia Bareham</i> 11:30am First Sunday Potluck Salad Luncheon	<b>3</b> 7:00pm Knitting Circle @ member home	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 10-12pm Cleaning Service, facilities not available.	<b>6</b> 11am Membership Committee	<b>7</b> <i>Purple Heart Day</i>	<b>8</b> Walking the Walk Justice Summit & Family Camp @ deBenniville Pines, thru 8/12
<b>9</b> 10:30am Worship Service: "Activating Hope" <i>Debbie Rice</i> 11:30am UUCVH Annual Summer Picnic Potluck <i>World Indigenous Peoples' Day</i>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <i>Obon</i>	<b>14</b> 11:30am Women's Group Potluck Luncheon	<b>15</b> Singing in the Pines Choir Camp @ DeBenniville Pines, thru 8/19
<b>16</b> 10:30am Worship Service: "Compassion in Human Relations: the Hard Principle" <i>Eric Kleinsasser</i>	<b>17</b> <i>Marcus Garvey Day</i>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 7pm Board Meeting <i>World Humanitarian Day</i>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 10:30am Worship Service: "Crossing Thresholds" <i>Debbie Rice</i> <i>World Day for Slave Trade Abolition</i>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <i>Women's Equality Day</i>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <i>Green Corn Moon, 11:37am</i>
<b>30</b> 10:30am Worship Service: "End of Life Options Campaign" <i>Stefanie Elkins</i> Noon Congregation Meeting	<b>31</b>					

## ***SAVE THE DATE!***

Aug 1. *Lughnasadh*  
Aug 2. First Sunday Potluck 11:30am  
Aug 3. Knitting Circle 7pm  
Aug 6. Membership Comm 11am  
Aug 8-12. Walking The Walk Justice Summit, de Benneville Pines  
Aug 8-12. Family Camp, de Benneville Pines  
Aug 9. Annual UUCVH Summer Picnic Potluck 11:30am  
Aug 14. Women's Group Potluck Lunch 11:30am  
Aug 15-19. Singing In The Pines Choir Camp, de Benneville Pines  
Aug 19. Board Meeting 7pm  
Aug 21. Outlook Newsletter deadline  
Aug 30. Congregational Meeting, Noon

**What's on your Summer  
Bucket List?  
Save a sample of water for  
our Ingathering Water  
Ceremony in September!**

## ***the Outlook***

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