

the Outlook

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Verdugo Hills
4451 Dunsmore Avenue, La Crescenta, CA 91214

www.uuverdugo.org

September 2015

Volume 20, Issue 9



A MONTH OF SUNDAYS 10:30 AM

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

Rev. Gordon Clay 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!

Children's Religious Exploration Education class concurrent

September 6

"A Web of Holy Relationships" Rev. Gordon Bailey

Join us as we call each other into relationship and remind each other that we are not alone in history.

Let this service ignite us with the courage of the Living Tradition:

- Anchor us with patience & perseverance;
- Remind us that we are not alone in our times of grief & pain;
- Comfort us with spirit -- manifest in our human hands & voices;
- Remind us that we are not alone in joy & wonder;
- Inspire us to honor & spread the beauty we find in this world.

Ultimately, let this service begin a new day in our Beloved congregation as we step into our future now!

September 13

"Ingathering & Water Communion" Rev. Gordon Bailey

Welcome back to our community after summer! Come, enter into our house with new memories and worship. Come into the circle of love and join us as we intermingle the waters as we set our sights on where we are going this congregational year.

September 20

"Me and We" Rev. Gordon Bailey

This service will take a close look at Relationships. Relationships that take place within; those that are communal and denominational. And, relationships that connect us to the Web of all existence.

September 27

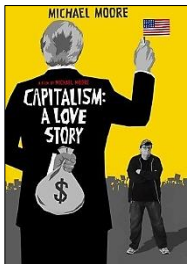
"L. A., Glendale, LaCrescenta, & More" Rev. Gordon Bailey

How do we engage our community? Do we UUCVH'ers live our UU values in our chosen community? How can we step into our future being mindful of changes that are occurring as we live and breathe? Are we, you and I, ready for the dawning of a new day? This service is about our relationship to our community and how we might reengage, get involved, and share the love.



**Thursday, September 3
Membership Committee
11:00am**

Come build connections with
other members and
newcomers!



**Friday, September 4
MOVIE NIGHT
6:30pm**

Hosted by Paula Hallowell

“Capitalism: A Love Story”

2009 R 127 mins

Filmmaker Michael Moore takes on capitalism's roots, the floundering U.S. economy, and 2008's global financial meltdown and subsequent bank bailout in this rousing documentary. Combining stories about those who suffer most from Corporate America's greed and insatiable thirst for profits and the people most responsible for myriad crises, Moore embarks on another shocking fact-finding rampage.

CONTINUING CONVERSATIONS

I've traveled the long and sometimes dusty highways and byways of our beautiful continent this past month. The journey from New York City to La Crescenta has been one that took some twenty years in ministerial aspiration and resulted in my coming to UUCVH as your called minister.

I've decided to develop a month-by-month approach to our shared ministry for this coming year. I'd like to start with RELATIONSHIP as the topic for September. We will look at the many types of relationships that congregational life cultivates.

We can look to ourselves and how we relate within the context of the self as unique beings amongst the billions. From there, we will venture into our church family and the relationships we have and share here.

Next, we delve into denominational life, activities, UU values, mores, structures and how they affect our individual journeys. The Adult RE on Building Your Own Theology will kick off on the 20th before church and our engaging World Religions will begin on the 22nd in the evening. Both of these are natural to UU identities, both of these enlist and engage our UU principles and purposes.

Lastly, I want to take us into a critical analysis of our relationship to La Crescenta, Glendale, LA County and beyond if we make it that far. What do we ultimately desire for our congregation? How shall we draw closer to the peoples, cultures, and diversity of this beautiful community.

So, here is a quote that says a lot about how I am operating- *Empathy is the starting point for creating a community and taking action. It's the impetus for creating change.* -- Max Carver

And, here is a quote for activating our bodies, mind and spirit- *In our religious tradition, it is not just ministers and religious professionals who have power to bless. Each of us has to bless another, and to bless the world. Therefore I invite everyone here to participate in this blessing. The words are ordinary words, but we make the blessing real through our shared intention.*

In closing, I'd like to seek your help -- for in order to do this work together we need to develop a paradigm that is open.

We are constituted so that simple acts of kindness, such as giving to charity or expressing gratitude, have a positive effect on our long-term moods. The key to the happy life, it seems, is the good life: a life with sustained relationships, challenging work, and connections to community. -- Paul Bloom

Dear Friends, let our lives together begin in earnest and let the love guide us in all we do!

In faith,

Rev. Gordon



**Sunday, September 6
First Sunday Potluck
11:30am**

Bring an Indian Cuisine luncheon dish to share as we celebrate Rev. Gordon Bailey's first Sunday together with a Special Potluck Luncheon following the service. *(Check out Celia's recipe books in Fellowship Hall for inspiration.)*



**Monday, September 7
Knitting Circle
7:00pm**

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



**Wednesday, September 9 at
7:00 - 8:00 pm**

**UUCVH Board Meeting
*New date is the 2nd***

Wednesday of the month!

Meetings of the Board of Trustees are open to all members of UUCVH. Join us to learn about our leadership & organization and the difference between governance & management.

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Our new "church year" starts off with a bang, as we welcome Rev. Gordon Bailey and his wife, Lisa, to UUCVH! During their visit in May we got a glimpse of the energy and inspiration they will bring to our congregation. We look forward to having Rev. Gordon in the pulpit starting on Sunday, September 6! Please plan to join us as we welcome Rev. Gordon and Lisa on that Sunday with an Indian themed potluck luncheon celebration.

We have been talking for years about creating an outdoor play area for our children, and now the opportunity has arrived! You may have seen the photos, or maybe even taken a walk out behind our church building to admire the work done by Dustin Hunt and his fellow Boy Scouts for his Eagle Scout Project. They cleared weeds and debris and created a stepping stone path lined with potted succulents leading to the area west of the Sanctuary. We are now considering ways to make use of this area as a play/gardening space for the children in our RE program. They have already taken on the weekly task of watering the succulents. The board is now investigating what else we can do to create a safe and useable area for our youngest members. We welcome your input!

I look forward to seeing all of you at our traditional Ingathering/Water Ceremony this month and hearing your stories from summer activities. It doesn't matter whether the water is authentic, symbolic or virtual—most important is the sense of community we feel as memories are shared!

Ann Kleinsasser

Save The Date!

**Sunday, October 11, 2015
1:00 PM to 5:00 PM**

**Join Us As We Toast
Deane Phinney
"Celebrating 90"**

**At Deane's Home in Burbank, California
Hosted by Anne, Tessie, Dave, and Paul**

**rsvp to prphinney@gmail.com by Saturday,
September 12, 2015.**

**Bring a memory to share!
(no gifts please)**

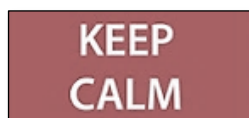


**Friday, September 11
Women's Group Potluck
11:30 - 1:00pm**

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

*Aesthetics Committee following.

**Friday, September 18
Warning! Newsletter
Deadline Ahead!**



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

Articles & announcements
may be submitted for
consideration by all members
and friends!

Email your proofread articles
to the office at
uucvh@uuverdugo.org

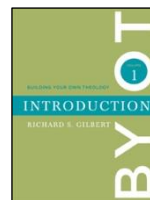
New deadline date for
submissions is Friday,
September 18!
(Yes, midnight is fine as long as
you get it in while it's still
Friday.)

*Late submissions may be
published in a future edition.*
Editor reserves the right to
edit for content and/or space.

**NEW ADULT RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION COURSES!
WITH REV. GORDON**

**Sunday mornings,
Beginning September 20 from 9:30-10:15am**
before worship service.

Building Your Own Theology (BYOT)
Based on the assumption that everyone is
their own theologian!
Each series is 10 sessions.



- 🔥 Series 1 of this classic UU adult education program invites participants to develop their own personal credos.
- 🔥 Series 2 continues the credo-development process by focusing on various theological questions to help participants grow in their ability to understand and articulate their own belief systems.
- 🔥 Series 3 invites participants to apply their beliefs, values and convictions to particular ethical situations.

Everyone is welcome, including repeat "students"! This curriculum discusses all the important questions of religion from a UU perspective, allowing each to come to their own understanding of what makes sense and works. It's a wonderful way to get to know other UUCVH'ers and to explore your own faith.

Goals for Participants:

- 🔥 Determine their values and beliefs about God or ultimate reality, human nature, ethics, the meaning & purpose of life
- 🔥 Discover what other UUs believe about the great religious questions
- 🔥 Articulate their beliefs in credo statements
- 🔥 Meet the challenge of building their own theology



**WORLD RELIGIONS
WITH REV. GORDON**

Beginning Tuesday, September 22 from 7:00 – 8:00pm

Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey will be starting a series of ten adult RE classes on world religions. These will be loosely based on the works compiled by Huston Smith and Philip Novak. The first class in this series explores "Primal Religions."

Come and join us for spiritual enrichment!

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



Bring your used ink & toner
cartridges to church for
recycling! Your help provides
us a discount on office
supplies while keeping those
toxic cartridges out of our
landfills.

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



Here's what's in the Lost &
Found box in Fellowship Hall:

- black zip front jacket
- purple coin/cigarette case
(no, it's not Rev Betty's)
- white Oakley sunglass case
- clear plastic eyeglass case
- metal frame eyeglasses
- blue Mardi Gras beads
- gold tone pin back
- rhinestone hoop earring
- silver tone earring with
flower & blue gem design

All items left in the box will be
donated on Wednesday,
September 30. So, come claim
your stuff! Thanks!

Camp de Benneville Pines

41750 Jenks Lake Rd W
Angelus Oaks, CA 92305

To register, go to uucamp.org and click on "Register for Camp"

September

4-7	PSWD YA Retreat	pswdcmd@gmail.com
11-13	Yoga & Wellness Retreat	registrar@uucamp.org (909) 794-2928

25-27	ACA of Orange County Fall Mountain Retreat	fmrchair@gmail.com
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October

12-15	Homeschool Autumn Retreat	registrar@uucamp.org (909) 794-2928
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16-18	LA Valley Cluster UU Church Retreat (UUCVH)	Clustercamp@ymail.com
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23-25	Fall Work Weekend	registrar@uucamp.org (909) 794-2928
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30-Nov 1	Daughters of Diana Gathering	www.daughtersofdianagathering.org
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Take-A-Tag!

Our Chalice Children need your support!

For the month of September...

Choose a tag, or two, from the display in Fellowship Hall.

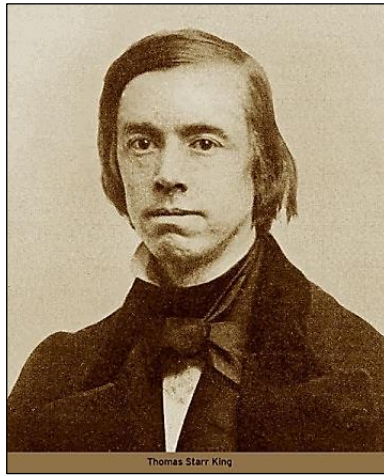
Take your tag with you when you go shopping.

Bring your donation and tag back to church to put in the
big box!

Thank You!

UU OF THE MONTH:

Rev. Thomas Starr King



Thomas Starr King was born in New York City in 1824 to Rev. Thomas Farrington King, a Universalist minister, and Susan Starr King. When he became the sole supporter of his family at age 15, Starr King embarked on a program of self-study for the ministry. Five years later, he took over his father's former pulpit at the Charlestown Universalist Church in Charlestown, Massachusetts.

In 1849 he was appointed pastor of the Hollis Street Church in Boston, where he became one of the most famous preachers in New England. He preached there for 11 years before accepting a call from the First Unitarian Church of San Francisco, California in 1860. Starr King moved to California because he felt like his skills as a minister and preacher were needed more there than in Boston, as there were many Unitarian ministers in New England at the time, but few in the west. As it turned out, Starr King had great influence on California politics during the remainder of his life.

During the Civil War, California had to decide two things – whether to stay in the United States and whether to be a slave state or free state. Starr King was an excellent and convincing preacher, and he spoke throughout California, continuously, in favor of California staying in the United States and to be a free state – he was successful on both issues. Also, Starr King helped found the American Sanitary Commission, which was the original American Red Cross. He became exhausted and sick from preaching non-stop, and he died in 1864. His sarcophagus lies outside of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco.

(Read more of Starr King's remarkable story in Fellowship Hall)

BOARD MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY

19 Aug 2015

Present: President Ann Kleinsasser, Treasurer Gary Clark, Secretary Vivienne Payne, Trustee Pat Berberian, Trustee Howard Richman, Congregational Administrator Terresa Jones, Finance committee member Alan Kleinsasser

Absent: Vice President Roy Lopez, Trustee Celia Eiben

Minister: Reverend Gordon Bailey will start on Sept 1st; his first Sunday in the pulpit will be September 6th with a welcome lunch after the service planned by the Membership Committee. An Installation Service for Rev. Gordon will be planned later in the year. The board thanks Gary and Terresa for their efforts in assisting with securing housing in Pasadena for Rev. Gordon and his wife Lisa.

Treasurer's report: The Treasurer's report was submitted by Gary and discussed by the board. Terresa put significant effort into thoroughly investigating health insurance options for Gordon and his family in order to ensure that they will have suitable plans in place by September 1st.

Membership committee report: It was agreed that we should wait for Rev. Gordon to arrive before signing any new members into the congregation.

RE committee report: RE Picnic was a big success, providing visibility for the "giving tree", which will provide materials to enrich the RE program.

Worship Committee: Will assist in providing Worship Associates for Sunday services with Rev. Gordon.

Old Business: The need and plans for a fire drill were discussed, as was progress on preparing the back area behind the church as a possible play area for children in the RE program.

New Business: Publicity for Rev. Gordon's arrival: Edith has drafted an article that could be sent out to papers. Options being considered are sending an article to the papers, or asking a reporter to interview Gordon for an article. Calendar items will be sent to the Glendale News Press for specific events or Sunday services.

M/S/C to keep our paid ad in CV Weekly until end of October.

Congregational meeting on Aug 30th after the service regarding Senate Bill 128 End of Life Option Act.

Next Meeting: Wed Sept 9, 2015 @ 7 p.m.

Summary of minutes submitted by
Vivienne Payne,
Secretary



CULTURE & DIVERSITY CALENDAR

September 1: Orthodox Christian Ecclesiastical year begins.

September 5: Janmashtami, a Hindu holiday recognizing Krishna's birthday. Krishna is the highest god in the Hindu faith.

September 8: Christian Nativity of Mary

September 12: Ethiopian New Year. Rastafarians celebrate the New Year on this date and believe that Ethiopia is their spiritual home, a place they desire to return to.

September 13 (sunset) – September 15 (nightfall): Rosh Hashanah, a holiday recognizing the Jewish New Year. It is the first of the Jewish High Holy Days, and is marked by abstinence, prayer, repentance, and rest.

September 14: Christian Holy Cross Day – Elevation of the Life Giving Cross

September 15 – October 15: Hispanic Heritage Month. This month corresponds with Mexican Independence Day, which is celebrated on September 16, and recognizes the revolution in 1810 that ended Spanish dictatorship.

September 17: Hindu Ganesh Chaturthi

September 18: Paryushana Parva, the most revered Jain festival comprising eight or ten days of fasting and repentance.

September 21 (sunset): Waqf al Arafa – Hajj. Islam

September 22 (sunset) – September 25 (sunset): Eid al Adha. Islam Sacrifice Day

September 22 (sunset) - September 23 (sunset): Yom Kippur. This holiday is the holiest day on the Jewish calendar and is a day of atonement marked by fasting and ceremonial repentance.

September 22 (sunset): Pagan/Wicca Mabon

September 23: Equinox

September 27: Ethiopian Orthodox Christian Meskel

September 27 (sunset) - October 4 (sunset): Jewish holiday of Sukkot. It is a time of remembrance of the fragile tabernacles that Israelites lived in as they wandered the wilderness for 40 years. The first day of the holiday is celebrated with prayers and special meals.

September 28: Teacher's Day. Taiwan uses this day to honor teachers' contributions to their students and to society in general. People often express their gratitude to their teachers by paying them a visit or sending them a card. This date was chosen to commemorate the birth of Confucius, the model master educator in ancient China.

September 29: Christian Day of Michael and All Angels

September 2015 at UUCVH						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
All events take place at UUCVH unless otherwise noted		1	2 10am-1pm Cleaning Service, facilities not available.	3 11:00am-12:30pm Membership Committee	4 6:30pm Movie Night "Capitalism: A Love Story"	5
6 10:30am Worship Service "A Web of Holy Relationships" Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey BTAC collection during service! 11:30am Indian Potluck Lunch	7 7:00pm Knitting Circle @ member's home	8	9 7pm Board Meeting	10	11 11:30am-1pm Women's Group Potluck Luncheon	12 RSVP deadline for Deane's Birthday Party!
13 10:30am Worship Service "Ingathering & Water Communion" Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey BTAC collection during service!	14	15	16	17	18 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	19
20 9:30am Adult RE "Building Your Own Theology" 10:30am Worship Service "Me and We" Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey BTAC collection during service!	21	22 7 – 8 pm Adult RE World Religions Class "Primal Religions"	23	24	25	26
27 9:30am Adult RE "Building Your Own Theology" 10:30am Worship Service "L. A., Glendale, LaCrescenta, & More" Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey BTAC collection during service!	28	29 7 – 8 pm Adult RE World Religions Class	30			Save The Date! Sunday, October 11 from 1-5pm. Join us as we toast Deane Phinney Celebrating 90!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Sep 3 Membership Committee at 11am
Sep 4 Movie Night "Capitalism: A Love Story" at 6:30pm
Sep 6 First Sunday Potluck Luncheon: Indian Cuisine! 11:30am
Sep 7 Knitting Circle 7:00pm
Sep 9 NEW DATE Board Meeting at 7pm
Sep 11 Women's Group Potluck Lunch 11:30am
Sep 12 RSVP Deadline for Deane's Birthday Party!
Sep 13 Annual Ingathering Service & Water Ceremony!
Sep 18 Outlook Newsletter deadline
Sep 20 Building Your Own Theology class 1 at 9:30am
Sep 22 World Religions: Primal Religions, session 1 at 7:00pm
Sep 27 Building Your Own Theology class 2 at 9:30am
Sep 29 World Religions, session 2 at 7:00pm

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