

the Outlook

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

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Please call for apt.

Elizabeth Brown,
Religious Ed. Coordinator
Gary Clark, *President*
David Hostetter, *Vice-President*
Ann Kleinsasser, *Secretary*
Vivienne Payne, *Treasurer*
Nancy Watkins, *Administrator*



We are Unitarian Universalists:
a people of the open mind,
the loving heart, and the helping
hands.

Welcome to UUCVH!

September 4 "America the Beautiful" - Rev Gordon Bailey

Our nation and the continent we reside on is beautiful. The diversity of flora and fauna is awesome. The majestic mountains and fruit filled farms are a sight to see. We have rivers, lakes, and the oceans to view, enjoy and play upon. In fact, we have everything! The human family is robust and growing. Yet at times, all is not, as it seems. The environment, human deeds, laws, and normative behaviors need to be looked at. Reassessed and even changed. Yes America is beautiful and our work is not finished yet. Join us for a service looking at the good, some bad and hope for a brighter tomorrow.

September 11 "Rocks, Water, Air and You" - Rev Gordon Bailey

Have you traveled this year? Did your hand pick up a rock? Maybe you were amazed by the waters of a distant location or close by? Has the air been sweet? Did you taste something in the atmosphere for the first time? Come back to church. Come back to UUCVH as we celebrate the beginning of a new church year with stories, rocks, and water and of course air. Join us as we kickoff an exciting congregations season filled with awe, wonder, deep conversation and you.

September 18 "Goodbye to Summer and Hello to Fall" - Rev Gordon Bailey

It is the time of the autumn equinox, and the harvest is winding down. The fields are nearly empty in many places, because the crops have been plucked and stored for the coming winter. Mabon is one of the mid-harvest festivals, and it is when we take a few moments to honor the changing seasons, and celebrate the second harvest. On or around September 21, for many Pagan and earth based traditions it is a time of giving thanks for the things we have, whether it is abundant crops or other blessings. It is a time of plenty, of gratitude, and of sharing our abundance with those less fortunate. Join us at UUCVH as we explore the season's spiritual offerings.

September 25 "The Candidate Speaks" -AJ Blackwood

Meet our new Intern Minister AJ Blackwood. He is a father, Southern California native and long term Unitarian Universalist. He attended Claremont School of Theology and is in the final stages in the process of becoming a fellowshipped Unitarian Universalist Minister. Join us for this "get to know you" service as we get to know AJ. He will be sharing his personal hopes, dreams and goals for his UU ministry as well as what he sees as the future of UUism in Southern California.

Continuing Conversations
September 2016



Summer time has almost come and gone. The fall and all that it brings is closely approaching. The days of sleeping in for the kids and some adults are over and back to work, back to school is here. Students have been home and students are now gone, days of AWE, and days of HARVEST approach... Oh what a time, what a season, such a reason for coming back to UUCVH!

Let me start by saying, I believe we have a great season ahead of us. We have a collective responsibility awaiting us. The brave, soulful, and intrigued people that will venture forth into our community of members and friends will find both an inviting, warm, engaging people and a spiritually deep, excited, and interesting worship experience.

UUCVH is in the midst of a renaissance! We are embarking on a magical mystery tour filled with justice making, music, history, religiosity, philosophy, theology and community building that is sure to bring personal growth, spiritual enrichment and educational opportunity to those who choose the path of participation.

I will be offering 34 services along with 20 sessions of the Adult Religious Education programing with a focus on personal spiritual growth and Interfaith understanding. Additionally, I will offer the new members or interested friends classes about our Chosen Faith, Unitarian Universalism and what makes this congregation (UUCVH) unique and worthy of peoples time, talents and resources on a quarterly basis.

Religious Education is always a serious offering for us. Our children and families should be prepared to work, engage, think and participate in the life of this church. I'm looking forward to working with our RE coordinator and committee to provide the very best services possible. I'm going to embark on a monthly children's service. Something fun, and always UU affirming.

Please don't forget we are a congregation that really enjoys each other's company. Movie nights will be happening on a monthly schedule. We might even have a few outings planned for the community. Concerts, Theatre, or a lecture – lets go out together and share a good time.

Lastly, how about the development of our social justice activism? You have been busy and your full scale activation starts again now: Greening our sanctuary; gun control; women's rights; housing; citizenship; the environment, the antiquated drug laws; or whatever issues/community impact, you as a congregation decide to pursue. Let's get busy!

I also want to give a call for the development of an intergenerational choir! I have heard children of ALL ages who like to sing at UUCVH and look forward to you joining the choir and leading the rest of us in more "singable" hymns.

S E P T E M B E R I N T E R F A I T H C A L E N D A R

- 1**
Ecclesiastical year begins - **Orthodox Christian**

- 6-15**
Paryushana Parava - **Jain**

- 8**
Nativity of Virgin Mary - **Christian**

- 10**
Waqf al Arafa - Hajj Day * - **Islam**

- 11-14**
Eid al Adha * - **Islam**

- 14**
Elevation of the Life Giving Cross (Holy Cross) - **Christian**

- 22- Equinox**
Mabon * - **Wicca/Pagan** northern hemisphere

- Ostata * - **Wicca/Pagan** southern hemisphere

- 29**
Michael and All Angels - **Christian**

- Meskel - **Ethiopian Orthodox Christian**

Continued on page 3



Want to help the RE children in our program? We need books! Books on emotions, UU faith, social challenges, diversity, social justice... if it feels UUish, we would love to have it! We always accept gift cards and had a lot of fun shopping at Once Upon a Time in Montrose



**Wednesday, September 14
7:00pm**

UUCVH Board Meeting

Meetings of the Board of Trustees are open to all members.

Reminder!



**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
12PM (NOON)**

**OUTLOOK NEWSLETTER
SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE!**

Tips to get your message out:

- ✓ Write it yourself.
- ✓ Proofread & correct.
- ✓ Include contact name with phone &/or email.
- ✓ Add date, time, location.
- ✓ Email items to the office uucvh@uuverdugo.org

Note that Sunday Orders of Service Bulletin deadline is by the prior Tuesday.

Eblast requests to be emailed to the office a week in advance.

Thanks!

Finally, let us welcome A. J. Blackwood to our ministry team. He will be our intern minister this coming church year. AJ brings a world of talent and spiritual depth to our community. He is a SO CAL guy from the OC and a long term UU. When I am not in the pulpit, he will be providing some of the other service. I am sure he will inspire and bring diversity of thought, experience and spirituality to us. Please welcome him aboard. I'm feeling good about our lives together. It is shaping up to be an awesome congregational year!

So, please come as you are (or as you aspire to be) to the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Verdugo Hills to laugh, to cry, to love and live intentionally with a community of great people. The door is open and you are always welcome!

In faith,

Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey



On With The Show

Roy Zimmerman was here again. If you didn't make it, you missed a great show. His performance always makes for a fun night. He even made fun of us. Anyone remember? Can watch his some performances on youtube.

We had a good amount of people but I would really like to pack the house. I don't know how to get more people to attend. I advertised on Patch, Nextdoor, craigslist, coffee bars, cafes, and libraries. This time I went to a marijuana dispensary. I figure "what the h. e. double toothpicks." Any ideas are welcomed for next year.
Paula

ASCENCIA Lifting People Out of Homelessness

Friday, September 9

Food prep begins at 2:00pm for meal service at 6:00pm.

1851 Tyburn Street, Glendale, CA 91204

We will be preparing our monthly dinner for Ascencia on Friday, September 9 as part of "The Guest Chef" program. Please contact Betsy Burcham or Ann Kleinsasser if you are able to help prepare or serve the dinner, or both.

Laundry baskets and lists for Ascencia are available; please feel free to take one home.

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Gary Clark

August is the serious part of the La Crescenta summer, as the hot winds from the desert are more likely to flow over the mountains and down upon our gardens, yards, and homes. August is the month that we could celebrate or note the Assumption of Mary, or Tisha B'Av, the destruction of the First Temple and the Second Temple of Jerusalem. Many will go on vacation, and it is a challenging month to stay and work in your garden. I think it would be a good time of year for Unitarians to read Benjamin Franklin or Thomas Jefferson. I know that Unitarians have wide-ranging reading interests.

As the fall season approaches, it may be a good time to think about the various ways that we currently reach out to the community. We lost one of our leaders in the Social Action area, Jerry Buchanan, this past year. Jerry provided much drive, inspiration, and motivation in this area. This would be a good time to think about what we would like to do in the coming year.

Ours services tend to be lay-led during August, while our called Minister, Rev Gordon, is back in New York. Rev Gordon returns in September. I wish all of us the best during the coming month.

Respectfully,
Gary N. Clark
Congregation President

The month of September is filled with changes... the seasons are shifting, our children are going back to school, and we are coming back to church after summer. We are excited to welcome Reverend Gordon back and to get started with some new RE plans for the year! We look forward to working with our community to strengthen the RE program for our children and to create a deeper connectedness between the RE children and the adults in our congregation!

We will be focusing this month on several important aspects of being a part of the UU faith. We will explore what the chalice is and why we light it each month, what it means to be a UU, what the 7 principles are and most importantly what does it mean to be a UU in the greater community. For our youngest children, this is simply about spending time with other UU families, getting to know them and beginning to develop an understanding of their community. For our older children, understanding what it means to be a UU reaches out into their greater community. What does it mean to be a UU at school? With my friends? When I dislike something? How do I hold true to the principles when society can sometimes make it hard to do?

We explore life, social challenges, feelings, emotions and our faith with one another.

It has been an exciting ride so far and I can't wait to see what the New Year brings!

Wishing everyone a wonderful start to whatever change may be approaching their lives and comfort in knowing there is an incredible community behind you!

Elizabeth Schenk



WOMEN'S GROUP POTLUCK

Friday, September 9 @ Noon

Women and those who identify as women, bring a dish to share & have fun!



Sunday, September 11

MEMBERSHIP COMM. MEETING

9:00am (before Service)

Come help us plan ways to build connections with other members & newcomers!
See chair Florence Chase with your interest.



Thursday, September 15

7:00pm

"WHITE PEOPLE FOR RACIAL JUSTICE"

White People for Racial Justice will continue to meet in the summer at Neighborhood Church in Pasadena, the third Thursday, at 7:00 pm. Our next meeting is Thursday, August 18, 7:00 pm. In addition to other timely topics, we will be continuing our discussion about how to partner with Black Lives Matter LA and speaking about our engagement with the Occidental campus, partnering with a professor, setting up a panel discussion at Occidental and in September, our monthly meeting will be held on campus. Please contact Lisa Bailey for more information and if you'd like to carpool to Pasadena.

Board Meeting Minutes Summary
August 10, 2016

Present: Gary Clark, Howard Richman, Vivienne Payne, Ann Kleinsasser, Pat Berberian

Reports

Minister: Rev. Gordon's report was accepted in absentia. Water Ceremony in September will be publicized.

Treasurer's report: Gardening expense was over budget because of necessary tree trimming. Conference fees were over budget and the budget line for those fees will be re-evaluated for next year.

Hospitality Committee: Changes were discussed.

Worship Committee: Summer services were discussed.

Old Business

Ministerial Intern compensation was discussed. M/S/C to hire the Intern (with financial contingencies).

An office credit card was arranged for Nancy.

Gary is making progress on the 403B retirement plan with Vanguard for Gordon.

RE Coordinator contract will be signed by Gary and Elizabeth.

Insurance recommendations – Paula has handled the needed repairs.

Roy Zimmerman—Paula handled everything for the performance on Aug 9. We may try to schedule his next performance for a different time of year (possibly January), when attendance may be better.

Discussion of Vision/Mission Statement and Defibrillator were postponed until the next board meeting when David will be back.

New Business

Paula's photo group rental Dec. 14. Board meeting will be rescheduled that month.

Retreat date--Sat. Sept. 10, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Howard shared Terry's proposal for UUCVH to host and provide volunteers for Glendale Library ESL tutoring program. Board agreed it would be a good idea—Terry should pursue arrangements.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Kleinsasser, Recording Secretary

Around the Grounds

I have not been a member as long as others in this congregation. Some remember what this place looked like. I have seen many changes in the past few years. Wonderful improvements to our old building. It started with a group vision ... and "that" vision plan has been completed. It was daunting in the beginning. Like anything, one bite at a time.

In the next coming months we would like to work some other improvements. Which one will be first? Who knows. I think I have a good idea it will be the center doors. The old ones work but are not as safe as they could be. Stay tuned...

Anyone know how to do chainsaw carving? The tree stump could use some beauty. I know, fake flowers are not the best, but it was the quickest way to beautify the leftovers. Wondering why it was not ground down? It was too close to the foundation. Paula

SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

September 4:

Ann, Greeter
Carol H., Usher
Howard R., Sound Tech

September 11:

Celia, Greeter
Paul K., Usher
Alan K., Sound Tech

September 18:

Julie, Greeter
Gary, Usher
Jesse, Sound Tech

September 25:

Ann, Greeter
Howard, Usher
Sound Tech

September 2016						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 10:30am Worship Service: 11:30am – First Sunday Potluck	5	6	7 7:00pm – Comm. On Ministry	8	9 12noon Women’s Potluck Luncheon 2pm Guest Chef @ Ascencia, Glendale	10 9:00am – Board Retreat
11 9-10am Membership Committee 10:30am Worship Service: 12:15pm – RE Committee	12	13	14 10am-1pm Building Maintenance, closed 7pm Board Meeting	15 7-8:30pm “White People For Racial Justice” @ Neighborhood UU	16	17
18 10:30am Worship Service 12:15pm – Social Justice Comm:	19 Noon: Newsletter Deadline	20	21	22	23	24 10:00am JUUSTICE LA First Unitarian Church 6:00pm – Pizza & A Movie
25 9:00am – Racial Justice 10:30am Worship Service:	26	27	28	29	30	

All events take place at UUCVH unless otherwise noted

Don't Miss the Opportunity to Meet the UUA Presidential Candidates - ALL WOMEN!

YOU ARE INVITED!

**UUA Presidential
Candidates Forum**

Friday, February 17, 2017



The Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray



The Rev. Alison Miller



The Rev. Jeanne Pupke

THIRD INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CONVOCATION

REGISTER NOW TO SAVE \$100, ONLY THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30TH!

Final extension of early bird rate - only thru Sept 30th. An additional \$50 discount is available for UU ministers. [Young adults aged 18-40 can register at a special rate of \\$490](#), covering accommodation and all meals in addition to the reduced registration fee.

For more information about the Convocation and TO REGISTER,

<https://www.intlwomensconvo.org/third-international-womens-convocation/> We look forward to welcoming you at the Asilomar Convocation in 2017!