

# The Outlook



"A Community of Conscience and Compassion"  
4451 Dunsmore Ave., La Crescenta, CA 91214 - 818.248.3954

## April 2017

Theme for April. Human Ecology - **Human Ecology** is an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary study of the relationship between humans and their natural, social, and built environments.



April 2

### Who Was He?

Jesus was a peasant, which tells us about his social class. Clearly, he was brilliant. His use of language was remarkable and poetic, filled with images and stories. There was a sociopolitical passion to him -- like a Gandhi or a Martin Luther King, he challenged the domination system of his day. Jesus was also a healer. And there seems to have been a spiritual presence around him, like that reported of St. Francis or the Dalai Lama. At the end of this service I hope we will know more about Jesus and feel a deeper connection to one of the most compelling people who ever lived

### Not Your Average Negro

April 9



In the words of James Baldwin I find a vehicle for movement. He discerns that- "it is certain, in any case, that ignorance, allied with power, is the most ferocious enemy justice can have". Join us as we look to the works of Juustice-LA, our congregation and ourselves as the worker bees for creating the Beloved Community.



April 16

### **New Life, New Possibilities, New You**

Easter and the spring season bring us a set of new possibilities. We don't have to be a people looking towards some great event in history or even in the present if we engage the realities of now. Join us at UU Verdugo as we enter into the possibility of new life, new church, new realities, new UU's. This service is for the young, middle aged and old. This service is about our community both in the church and outside of the church moving forward. Happy Easter my friends!

April 23

### **Spring Cleaning**

In SoCal, given our year round, generally, beautiful weather our doors and windows are open everyday, most of us don't really understand what it means to have a home that is closed up all winter long and in need of spring cleaning. We will be exploring what it means to do some spiritual spring cleaning here at UUVerdugo?



April 30

### **Sacred Lore**

Beltane honors Life. It represents the peak of Spring and the beginning of summer. Earth energies are at their strongest and most active.

All of life is bursting with potent fertility and at this point in the Wheel of the Year and the potential becomes real. Join us for a service in the round. Join us for Celtic and Pagan songs and dance.

Join us for a time of memory and good feelings!

### **Continuing Conversations**

Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey



**Human ecology** is a way of looking at the interactions of humans with their environments and considering the relationships we have as a system. In this framework, biological, social, and physical aspects of the people's lives are considered within the context of their environments. For our purposes I'm proposing that we look at our lives as Unitarian Universalist, as members of UUCVH (UU Verdugo) and ultimately from that most western of notions from the individual perspective.

From my vantage point, I see our denomination as – a religious voice against policies of oppression and bigotry in the nation and world.

This means that as a Unitarian Universalist I stand in opposition to the newest executive order from the Trump administration restricting travel to the United States from Muslim-majority countries. It seems unjust and un-American. Despite what the administration might say this executive order is still a discriminatory attack on a single religious group.

Additionally so many of us are dismayed that the Trump administration has rescinded the previous guidance issued jointly by the U.S. Education and Justice Departments to allow transgender students to use bathrooms based on their gender identity. The Unitarian Universalist community has vowed to fight for equal protection for transgender people at all levels of our society.

More to my point here in terms of who gets to come to the United States I believe that our Association stands alongside all of the world's major religions as we affirm the moral imperative to welcome the stranger. Our faith, our Unitarian Universalist congregations welcome individuals of all backgrounds and beliefs.

In fact UUA President Rev. Morales joined with more than 3,500 faith leaders in support of refugee resettlement in a letter to President Trump and Congress. It reads, in part, "As people of faith, our values call us to welcome the stranger, love our neighbor, and stand with the vulnerable, regardless of their religion. We pray that in your discernment, compassion for the plight of refugees will touch your hearts. We urge you to be bold in choosing moral, just policies that provide refuge for vulnerable individuals seeking protection."

A joint statement from Rev. Peter Morales, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association and Hon. Thomas Andrews, president and CEO of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee as quoted in a ThinkProgress article reads, "In the face of looming threats to immigrants, Muslims, people of color, and the LGBTQ community and the rise of hate speech, harassment and hate crimes, we affirm our belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every person. We will oppose any and all unjust government actions to deport, register,

discriminate, or despoil. As people of conscience, we declare our commitment to translate our values into action as we stand on the side of love with the most vulnerable among us."

Dearly beloved, these issues as well as those that affect our environment, our educational systems, our courts and justice department and so many other points of intersection apply in this Human Ecology discussion and discernment.

Being a UU is not easy. It is not a faith or spiritual community for the faint of heart. We have a long history and even a mostly positive legacy in standing on the side of what's right. Standing on the side of love. Moving from the purely subjective, towards more global understandings. My dear friends let us take a deeper look this month at the ways we engage our faith. Let us connect the dots between the many and varied aspects of life. Let us find a way to step outside of the very normal reactions of the self and into a place of concern and even corrective actions that will lead us from the me equation and into the we dialog that will help shape this congregation, our denomination and prayerfully the world that needs more love, more understanding, more action that leads from the old and into the dawn of a new creation. I am looking forward to continuing the conversation and learning how we can live out our values inside UUCVH/ UU Verdugo, out in the world and within the human ecology system that is us.

In faith,

Rev Gordon

### **President's Column**

Gary Clark

At UUCVH, April is a month to consider Human Ecology Human Ecology. I anticipate that Rev Gordon will be inviting us to consider the interdependence of everything. I suspect that much of the current political turmoil is caused on one side by failing to recognize this, and on the other by not recognizing the world as it is. Economically, there is a great deal of interdependence in the world.

Our Canvass kicks off, led by our indubitable Howard Richman, an individual who makes a real contribution. I am personally gratified that the Church continues to exist, and to move forward. Please think about the role the Church plays in your life, and about the role that the Church does and can play in the community.

Our current Congregational Administrator, Nancy Watkins, is the important and valued connector that holds many of our processes together and advances the Church in the community, and delivers and improves its services to our members. She also is experienced and knowledgeable in all aspects of our operations, and also has expertise in



Quickbooks Online, our accounting program. The progress that we have made in the past year would not have been possible without her contributions. She plays a similar role at Throop Unitarian in Pasadena, where she increased Throop's presence in the community and community awareness of Throop Unitarian by increasing community utilization of Throop Unitarian's building facilities. She has suggested a similar avenue for UUCVH. I think it is a great idea. I hope she and her husband are invited to a Friendship Dinner so more of us can get to know her.

Our previous Administrators, Jeannie Akerley and Terresa Carson-Jones, did much to bring modern progress to our Internet presence and social media presence. J. Blackwood, Intern, has been with us this past year. He has done many things, including many that I do not know about. And, he has rationalized or systematized our computer and our IT infrastructure. This will make a longer-run contribution to our electronic communications and the dissemination of our messages. He may not be around a lot longer, so find him and thank him when you have the chance.

We will be having, and perhaps have already had, a field trip to Watts Towers, led by VP David Hostetter. I found the trip last month to the Japanese-American Museum very impactful. I have since learned that the U.S. Government not only rounded up and interred Japanese American citizens, but we also rounded up and interred Japanese in Latin America at the beginning of WW II (which of course, was not under our official jurisdiction). A trip to Watts Towers is a good chance to learn about another part of our community, and spend time with our friends.

We have a nice physical building, and I am hoping that we can use it for more events that interface with our community in the months ahead.

Respectfully yours,

Gary N. Clark



**Veep's View**  
David Hostetter

*"I have about reached the conclusion that while large industry is important, fresh air and clean water are more important, and the day may well come when we have to lay that kind of hand on the table and see who is bluffing."*

*Senator Barry Goldwater, 1970*

Nearly five decades ago, weeks before the first Earth Day, one of the most conservative Republican senators of his era succinctly defined the environmental crisis that has only become more acute. As we mark Earth Day for the 48th time

we and our planet faces threats and challenges that are much greater than in 1970. The current plans by our anti-environmental leader to defund the Environmental Protection Agency and withdraw from global efforts to reduce global warming bode ill for taking action to avert ecological disaster.

With the new administration shirking its duty and actively endangering the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the land on which we all depend, we will have to do what we can ourselves. One way for us to fulfill our Seventh Principle - "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part" - is to work toward becoming a Green Sanctuary congregation. Are we ready to put our cards on the table?

For more info on what is required to gain certification as a Green Sanctuary, see [The Green Sanctuary Program](#)



This month we will be focusing on several ideas. We are excited that Spring has arrived, we will be talking about Women's History Month, Earth Day and of course thinking about all the wonderful holidays these next few months.

We will be planting a new garden on the side of the church with both tomatoes and milkweed (butterfly plants) as a way to take care of our earth. If any member of the congregation would like to donate pots, plants, maybe a gift card to Armstrong's that would be so greatly appreciated! We can't wait to beautify our garden and give a little back to mother earth.

We are looking for "special guests" to come down to the children's service for between 10-15 minutes to share a story, help us with a craft or just spend time with the children. We are constantly looking for ways to include our adults in our children's lives and we think this is a great start. Please feel free to check in with Elizabeth or any of the RE parents to let us know if you are interested.

Are you looking for ways to share the holidays of this season with your child?



Check out books at the library about Easter, Passover and the spring season  
 Plant flowers and veggies to share with friends and family  
 Talk with your children about what holidays are, which holidays your family celebrates and special traditions you may share

There are so many ways to welcome the season of change and growth! We look forward to sharing how we celebrate as the month moves on.

Happy Spring!

Warmly,  
 Elizabeth S. Brown  
 RE Coordinator

### Save the Date:

**April 9, 2017  
 12:30pm**

### **All Committee Chairs Communication Meeting**



Bring your laptop, tablet and phone and AJ will help Committee Chairs set up UUVerdugo emails. If you have any questions, please contact AJ

### **UUVerdugo and Interfaith Calendar**

Sat Apr 1	Lazarus Saturday - Orthodox Christian
Sun Apr 2	Palm Sunday – Orthodox Christian
	<b>10:30am – 11:30am      Worship Service</b>
	<b>11:30am – 12:30pm      First Potluck</b>
	<b>12:00pm – 1:00pm      Building Your Own Theology</b>
	<b>12:15am – 1:15pm      Religious Education Committee</b>
Wed Apr 5	Ramanavami ** - Hindu

Sun Apr 9	Palm Sunday – Christian <b>9:00am – 10:00am</b> <b>Membership Committee</b> <b>10:30am – 11:30am</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>12:30pm – 1:30pm</b> <b>All Cmte Chair Communication Mtg</b> <b>12:30am – 1:30pm</b> <b>Social Action Committee</b>
Mon Apr 10	Mahavir Jayanti ** - Jain
Tue Apr 11	Lord's Evening Meal – Jehovah's Witness Christian Hanuman Jayanti – Hindu
Tue Apr 11 – 14	Theravadin Mew Year – Buddhist
Tue Apr 11 – 18	Pesach (Passover) – Jewish
Wed Apr 12	<b>7:00pm – 8:00pm</b> <b>Board Meeting</b>
Thu Apr 13	Maundy Thursday
Fri Apr 14	Holy Friday - Orthodox Christian Baisakhi (Vaisakhi) - Sikh Good Friday - Christian <b>12:00pm – 1:00pm</b> <b>Women's Group Potluck Luncheon</b> <b>2:00pm – 5:00pm</b> <b>Guest Chef at Ascencia, Glendale</b>
Sun Apr 16	Easter – Christian Pascha (Easter) – Orthodox Christian <b>10:30am – 11:30am</b> <b>Worship Service</b>
Wed Apr 19	<b>7:00pm – 8:00pm</b> <b>Committee on Ministry</b>
Thu Apr 20	<b>7:00pm – 8:00pm</b> <b>White People for Racial Justice -</b> Neighborhood UU
Fri Apr 21	First Day of Ridvan – Baha'i
Sat Apr 22	<b>4:00pm -5:00pm</b> <b>Movie and Pizza – Wall-E</b>
Sun Apr 23	St. George's Day – Christian Yom HaShoah * - Jewish <b>10:30am – 11:30am</b> <b>Worship Service</b>
Mon Apr 24	Lailat a Miraj – Islam
Sat Apr 29	Ninth Day of Ridvan – Baha'i
Sun Apr 30	St. James the Great Day – Orthodox Christain <b>10:30am – 11:30am</b> <b>Worship Service</b>

**Wall - E Movie Night**  
April 22, 2017, 4:00pm





Fellowship Hall  
Contact: Jesse Silver

WALL-E, short for Waste Allocation Load Lifter Earth-class, is the last robot left on Earth. He spends his days tidying up the planet, one piece of garbage at a time. But during 700 years, WALL-E has developed a personality, and he's more than a little lonely. Then he spots EVE (Elissa Knight), a sleek and shapely probe sent back to Earth on a scanning mission. Smitten WALL-E embarks on his greatest adventure yet when he follows EVE across the galaxy.



**Ladies Luncheon**  
Community Hall  
April 14, 2017, 12:00pm

The Women's Group meets monthly on the second Friday of the month for an informal potluck luncheon and lively conversation. It is a time when members who may not be able to regularly attend Sunday services and those of us who spend most of our time running around during the Sunday fellowship hour can relax and enjoy being together. All are welcome to join us.



**Guest Chef**  
Ascencia, 1851 Tyburn St, Glendale, CA 91204  
April 14, 2017, 2:00pm  
Contact: Rev Gordon Clay Bailey

Each month we come together to share of ourselves with the homeless in our community. Please join us in preparing food for the community at Ascencia. Food preparation begins at 2:00pm for meal service at 6:00pm.

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