

The Outlook



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

May 2017

There are many exciting things happening at UUCVH, please be sure to scroll down through Newsletter.

Hometown Country Fair

April 29, 2017, 10:00am - 6:00pm
Crescenta Valley Park
3901 Dunsmore Avenue
Glendale, CA 91214

UUCVH goes to the Fair!

UUCVH will be at the Hometown Country Fair this Saturday! Come down to Crescenta Valley Park to enjoy all the fun of the fair and stop by the UUCVH booth for some refreshments and a chat. We look forward to seeing you there!



UUCVH Dialogue for Peace

May 4, 2017, 7:00 - 9:00pm

Greetings La Crescenta, Glendale, Sunland Tujunga and beyond, at this critical time in our nation, we can do many things to help the situation but nothing is more important than dialog, speaking, teaching, meditation and or prayer together for peace. Thank you in advance for making this spiritual discipline a personal priority and for standing with the human family for justice and peace in our time.

Join with us at UUCVH as we encourage others to incorporate peace dialog in their lives. We will be holding a vigil, spoken word, witness to how we as members of this community create peace within ourselves and work to share peace with our neighbors, community of

LA, state of California and beyond the national boundaries.

We look forward to seeing you and your friends at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Verdugo Hills on Thursday May 4th, 7:00-9:00pm for an evening of shared expressions for peace. Bring your song, your poem, your spoken word or a piece of art to share. We will spend a few hours speaking our truths to power in a space dedicated to creating peace in our lives, community and world. The fact that the 4th of May is the Day set aside in the USA as a day for prayer makes this event and evening even more special.

Light refreshments will be shared. If you have questions contact Rev Gordon Clay Bailey at 818-248-3954 or email revgordon@uuverdugo.org.



Kenneth Gordon installing the new handrails in the Sanctuary

The theme for May is: Gender Issues

Honest, accurate information about sexuality changes lives. It dismantles stereotypes and assumptions, builds self-acceptance and self-esteem, fosters healthy relationships, improves decision making, and has the potential to save lives. For these reasons and more it is vitally important to look closely at the intersections of faith, biology and psychology within a Unitarian Universalist frame of mind. Join us for an engaging look at various topics beyond He and She.



Continuing Conversations

Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey

What if in our conceptualization of spiritual, emotional and mental health, we moved to a common definition of the word “normal” as “usual” or “understandable”? What if we stopped using “abnormal” as a weapon against ourselves and others? What if we got real about what it means to be born into a lifetime of struggle and developed a new and expanding idea known as “New Normal”?

What happens to us in life as we navigate the trails, tribulations and multivariate experiences of life? If you fall down a set of steps and break your arm, we say that you injured your arm. We do not call you abnormal. My question to us all then is why can't we be that simple, sensible and real with regard to sadness, psychological pain, overwhelm, anxiety, inner turmoil, and the other commonly occurring and understandable events that members of our human family face? Can't we stop calling them problems, diseases,

negatives, or worse and calling ourselves “abnormal” for experiencing them? How about an evolved sense of things? How about allowing new understandings to venture into the common discourse? How about an ethos of love pervading what we say and do. I’m for that, how about you?

Isn’t it time that we stopped being held hostage by those dominating forces that want us to avoid looking at the reality of our human condition? I’m talking about the totality of the human condition. If we could do that, if we could adopt a “New Normal”, that allows broader human experiences into our definition of normal, we could begin to create a way of speaking and practical strategies for living that supports the living reality of the human condition in ways the lift up, hold dear, maybe even espouses love.

“Normal” would now include pain, difficulty, and especially struggle. We would possess a “new normal” that has caught up with our understanding of who we are and how we got here. If you believe that our species has evolved and racism, gender inequality, homophobia, and any of the other isms that separate us as a human family are finally on the way out and that we have begun the long march towards wholeness and acceptance then it’s time to get on board with what’s new. Our denomination is changing. This is no longer a bastion for highly erudite white men to discern theological conundrums. This new normal has Women in the lead, POC in positions from high to low and people of all stripes, orientations, genders and realities helping to shape our UU community and our world. I hope to see many of you this month at UU Verdugo. We are in the business of growing the “Beloved Community”. Won’t you come be a part of it?

In faith,

Rev Gordon

President’s Column

Gary Clark

Coming to Church is often a happy time for me. Especially when there are a lot of happy new faces along with happy old faces and little kids around. Our community has evolved over the years. It is due to the work of the many volunteers (such as Betsy and Celia on Hospitality and Cindy on R.E.) and some staff (Nancy Watkins and Elizabeth Brown), and Rev Gordon, as well as all of those who have gone before us.

The next field trip organized and coordinated by VP David Hostetter, will be to Watts Towers Saturday, May 6, which will be here very soon. Like the trip to the Japanese –American Museum in February, this will be a good chance to learn about another part of our community (a place I have never been to), and to share an adventure with friends.

UUCVH signed up for a booth at the Crescenta Valley Country Fair, held April 29 at a historic local park. Treasurer Vivienne Payne signed up volunteers, and by the time that you read this, the event may have already occurred. It was a way to advertise our existence and availability, and also to meet some of the local citizens.

I continue to support efforts to use our facilities to enhance our Community Connection with broader La Crescenta, and surrounding communities. Our Congregational Administrator, Nancy Watkins, has experience in this area, and I think we could benefit from her abilities. Our last movie night may have drawn more visitors, and we are or will benefit from Jesse Silver’s matching gift for a new T.V. screen.



One of our UU principles is the respect for the Interdependence of all things. I and others are slightly dismayed at efforts to cut government funding for scientific activities which may produce data that might be unappreciated or unwelcome by a current federal administration. The riposte might be that, don't worry, we are safer by spending more on the military. This is an effort, in some areas, to squelch inconvenient data.

Globalization of the last 25 years brought hundreds of million out of poverty, and perhaps created more interaction and more literacy. I note that in Hungary, Prime Minister Victor Orban is working to expel or eliminate Central European University in Budapest. This effort fits in with some broader populist trends. Central European University was established in Budapest with the support of George Soros and the Open Society Foundation. It is a graduate institution that supports openness and transparency and the democratic process, and had a great number of international students who came to learn, and in the process shared ideas. Not everyone cares for Mr. Soros to the same degree, but I do not support people, especially governments, shutting down Universities, even odd ones. We are better off having more places that seek Truth.

The budget for next year will soon be created, so if you are a committee chair, please submit budget requests to the Finance Committee. The Annual Meeting is also approaching, so please submit annual committee reports for the Annual Report. Our support of Ascencia continues, and summer is fast approaching.

Respectfully yours,

Gary N. Clark
Congregational President

NEW LEADERSHIP CONTACT INFO

Staff

Minister Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey
Administrator Nancy Watkins
Ministerial Intern AJ Blackwood
Religious Education Elizabeth Brown
Pianist Dan Brodsley

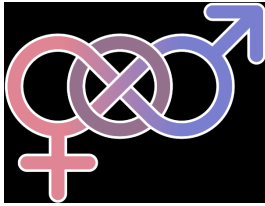
Board

President Gary Clark
Vice President David Hostetter
Secretary Ann Kleinsasser
Treasurer Vivienne Payne
Trustee Howard Richman
Trustee Pat Berberian
Trustee Celia Eiben

Committee Chairs

Aesthetics Suni J

Building and Grounds Paula H
 Bylaws Deane P
 Canvass Howard R
 Committee on Ministry Deane P
 Finance Alan K
 Hospitality Betsy B
 Membership Florence C
 Movies Paula H
 Nominating Paul K
 Religious Education Cindy L
 Social Action David K
 Ushers Terry R
 Worship Bonnie K



May 7

"Finding the Right Words"

Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey

As Unitarian Universalist we affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person. An individual's sexual orientation and/or gender they understand is a central part of who they are. In order to be true to ourselves we must come to understand and even honor who we really are. This is finding ourselves; this is often hard work; this is beyond he or she. In fact it is a spiritual imperative and worthy of a closer look.

May 14

"Mothers In The Modern World"

Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey

For centuries, some women have struggled to understand the expectation of one of their most important roles in society, motherhood. Books, articles and Internet discussion boards have become an important venue for women (and men, mostly as onlookers) to participate in ongoing discussions about the role of Mothering in the contemporary world. Let us jump in and engage in the conversation too. How are our women and mothers at UUCVH, California and the nation discerning and shaping society's newer understanding of the role of mothers. Join us this Mother's Day for a serious service!



May 21

"Mother Spirit, Father Spirit, Unknown Spirit"

Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey



One of our hymns speaks to a longing of human beings in search of the divine. Let us search together. Let us as a congregation of seekers and sojourners contemplate aloud the longings of our hearts. Maybe, just maybe the Spirit known by many names will be remembered? Or by chance we may discern an affinity for one particular view of the divine. But make no mistake about dear ones many if not most of us (human family) make a choice about the guiding light in our lives and for many reasons call this Spirit by a name that reflects a

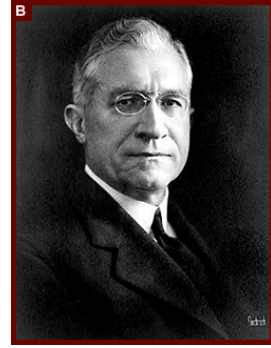
deep connection to the here and now and the great beyond. Join us at UU Verdugo as we explore together our personal theologies.

May 28, 2017

"An Utter Violation of Christianity: John Haynes Holmes and the Unitarian Rift over World War I"

David Hostetter, PhD

A strong voice for the progressive Social Gospel, the Reverend John Haynes Holmes opposed US entry into World War I. His stance against the war created a rift among Unitarians at the time. Holmes' witness against war set an important precedent for the UUA principle of seeking world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.



Social Action Circle Field Trip
Saturday May 6: Watts Towers Arts Center Campus

Simon Rodia's Watts Towers/Nuestro Puebla is a 50-60 minute drive from the church.

For info on Watts Towers: www.wattstowers.org

General Admission: \$7.00
 Seniors/Youth 13-17: \$3.00
 Children Under 12: FREE

The campus opens at 10 am on Saturdays.

The first docent-led tour is at 10:30 am

We can adjourn for lunch to the nearby Watts Coffee House, which closes at 1 pm.

For info on Watts Coffee House: www.yelp.com/biz/watts-coffee-house-los-angeles, www.facebook.com/pages/Watts-Coffee-House/118238671520899

The Coffee House opens at 8 am, so if people would like to have breakfast there we could leave the church at 8:00 am, have breakfast and then tour the Arts Center, or we can meet at the church at 9:00 am, travel to the Towers, and then have lunch. I am concerned that lunch might be rushed.

If six or more people commit to participate, we can rent a van and all travel together.

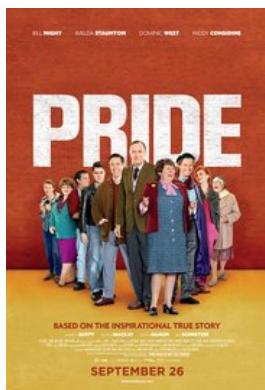
Please let me know if you would like to participate in the field trip by sending me a message at vp@verdugo.org

In your message please inform me as to whether:

- You are willing to drive, and if so, how many passengers your car will hold.
- Whether you prefer that we have breakfast or lunch at Watts Coffee House.

Please indicate that you are committed to participating by May 1.

David Hostetter



Movie Night
Fellowship Hall
May 11, 2017, 6:00pm

"Pride"

Contact: Paula Hallowell

U.K. gay activists work to help miners during their lengthy strike of the National Union of Mineworkers in the summer of 1984.

Moving movie nights into the modern era:

Viewers of all ages had a great time at our April Movie Night showing of Wall-E, timed to co-incide with Earth Day. Movie and pizza were followed by an excursion up to Dunsmore Park to enjoy some dessert and outdoor play before sunset. Many thanks to Jesse Silver not only for organizing this month's Movie Night but also for his impressive generosity in contributing funds to ensure that we can bring future Movie Nights into the modern era! Thanks also to all those who stepped up to the challenge and contributed to meeting Jesse's full match.



Ladies Luncheon
Community Hall
May 12, 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
May 12, 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.

[Click here to sign up!](#)

Annual pledge drive:

Just a quick reminder that we are in the midst of our annual Pledge Drive, where we ask members to pledge their financial assistance to continue and nurture our Unitarian presence in this community. If you have not already done so, please turn in your pledge cards so that we may start our planning for the year ahead. Whatever the size of your contribution, it will be greatly appreciated. Together, we can sustain and grow our programs and our impact in the wider world.

UUVerdugo and Interfaith Calendar

Mon May 1	Beltane - Samhain * - Wicca/Pagan Northern and Southern hemispheres	
	Yom Ha'Atzmaut - Jewish	
Tue May 2	Twelfth Day of Ridvan * - Baha'i	
Wed May 3	Saints Philip & James - Christian	
Thu May 4	National Day of Prayer - USA - Interfaith	
	7:00pm	Dialogue for Peace
Sat May 6	10:00am	Social Action Circle Field Trip
Sun May 7	10:30am – 11:30am	Worship Service
	11:30am – 12:30pm	First Potluck
	12:15am – 1:15pm	Religious Education Committee
Wed May 10	Visakha Puja - Buddha Day ** - Buddhist	
	7:00pm – 8:00pm	Board Meeting
Thu May 11	6:00pm	Movie Night - "Pride"
Fri May 12	Lailat al Bara'ah * - Islam	
	12:00pm – 1:00pm	Women's Group Potluck Luncheon
	2:00pm – 5:00pm	Guest Chef at Ascencia, Glendale
Sun May 14	Mother's Day	
	Lag B'Omer * - Jewish	
	9:00am – 10:00am	Membership Committee
	10:30am – 11:30am	Worship Service
Thu May 18	7:00pm – 8:00pm	White People for Racial Justice - Neighborhood UU

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|------------|---|--|
| Sun May 21 | 10:30am – 11:30am
12:30am – 1:30pm | Worship Service - Children's Chapel
Social Action Committee |
| Tue May 23 | | Declaration of the Bab * - Baha'i |
| Wed May 24 | 4:30pm | Committee on Ministry |
| Sat May 27 | | Ramadan begins * - Islam |
| Sun May 28 | 10:30am – 11:30am | Worship Service |
| Mon May 29 | | Memorial Day Office Closed
Ascension of Baha'u'llah * - Baha'i |
| Wed May 31 | | Shavout * - Jewish |

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