

# The Outlook



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

## June 2017

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



Please Mark Your Calendars for  
Unitarian Universalist Church of the Verdugo Hills (UU Verdugo)  
Annual Meeting of the Membership.  
June 4, 2017  
12:00pm

Every year the the Unitarian Universalist church of the Verdugo Hills, holds its annual business meeting. Come to hear about the accomplishments made by the congregation, the Board of Directors, and various committees. Elections to fill various open positions will take place during the meeting .

See you Sunday, June 4th after Sunday service.  
The meeting will begin at 12:00pm

Gary Clark  
President  
UU Verdugo Board of Directors

The following is the proposed slate of nominees for the Board and Nominating Committee. The nominees will be voted on at the annual meeting on June 4,

2017.

**Board of Trustees 2017-2018**

President--David Hostetter  
 Vice-President--Marty Barrett  
 Secretary--Amy Starbin  
 Treasurer--Vivienne Payne  
 Trustee--Roy Lopez

**Nominating Committee 2018-2019**

Gary Clark  
 Bonnie Kopit  
 Howard Richman

Submitted by Florence Chase, Paul Kopit and Terry Richman

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**The theme for June is: Living Our Faith**

**Continuing Conversations**

Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey

The longer I serve as a minister in the Unitarian Universalist Association, the more I wrestle with the question of how to explain Unitarian Universalism.

Since I'm in my 22nd year of service, you might expect that answer would be easy at this point. Well my friends, you'd be wrong and I would be telling a falsehood if I could give you a simple answer.

You see, the theme this month is: "Living Our Faith" and I for one am determined as I ever was to know myself, my theology, and my faith as it stands or moves in me and around me. I am excited and renewed by the efforts I must engage to make this reality come to the front of my conscience mind. I, in fact, live for love, knowledge, family and this faith. It means everything to me and I am hoping it is more than a passing fancy for you.

So my friends, the questions around your understandings of UUism and how it impacts, directs, informs and fulfills you, are coming your way. This summer I'm asking each of you to consider deeply what this faith is and what you want it to be. I'm asking you to practice your creed, your personal theology, your UU values so that without a question or too much doubt you might tell a friend, stranger or any soul what you believe.

I'd like to start by saying that we UU's are not as unique as we sometimes think and say we are – progressive people all over the world for instance, encourage others to think and explore and search their own lives in coming to understand God and the universe around them.

We UU's are, generally expansive in our encouragement of that search and it is in fact one of our greatest gifts that we actively search. I would also note, that I do not believe that "spirituality" is about what someone passively "believes" but, instead, how a person actively engages their inner and outer worlds. It's more than lip service. It's a paradigm for living.

That being said, there is a line in the hymn, “We Laugh, We Cry” (#355) which says that we believe, “even to question, truly is an answer.” An important part of the spiritual grounding of our faith tradition, as I understand it at least, is precisely this encouragement to seek for truth and meaning. This is not the same as saying, “UUs can believe anything we want.” That’s way too simplistic and not at all what I think we are about.

It is to say, however, that our faith encourages us to challenge ourselves to look into our own lived experience with dedication and deep longings to understand the insights of religion, science, and the arts as sources of knowing “the twin realities of being born and having to die” (as the Rev. Forrest Church put it). This is no small thing. Ours is, at its best, an active faith that calls on us to examine, work on, re-examine, and to keep on examining our understanding of the universe and our place in it. One way to describe the spirituality of Unitarian Universalism is that it calls on us to become comfortable in the discomfiting place of being human and having to live and ultimately die.

So no, you can’t “believe anything you want.” In the first place, “belief” is not, for UUs, the core of “spirituality.” In the second, we are encouraged to actively engage ourselves and the world in a free search for meaning; to then engage with others in open, dialog about what they have discovered in their search; and to then to arrive at a place of our own beliefs.

Unitarian Universalist spirituality and faith ought to lead us to the place so many of our youth model for us during their Coming of Age service – “this is what I believe now, but I know my beliefs will change over time.” This is almost foundational to being UU.

Another aspect of our faith tradition’s spiritual core – it is not enough to engage in this search for truth and meaning. We then must strive to apply our discoveries to the way we live our lives in the world. This isn’t to say, that just by affirming another’s inherent worth and dignity is enough. No my friends, we’ve got work to do. Potable water, housing, food, shelter, equality, racism, immigration, war, disease, incarceration, and need I say more? We as a liberal faith and as UUs are called on to change the world for the better.

One more observation – this is not, in my experience, the way a lot of UUs understand and experience our faith. Far too many, it seems to me, come to UUism having already decided on the “answers to life’s big questions,” and have no real interest in looking any further.

We come, many of us and maybe even the majority of us, to have our understandings affirmed rather than challenged; we want our established biases reinforced instead of re-examined. In this we are absolutely no different than the majority of other religious traditions we humans have ever created. Despite our saying we are so very different.

So dear friends I will share a line or two from a song we sing at Sophia Fahs Religious Education camp. I’ve been going there for many years now and I believe this will be my last but for the rest of my life I will recall with gladness and great heart the song that simply says-

Dear friends, dear friends you have given me so much, I love you so.

UUCVH, UU Verdugo, thank you for another year. Thank you for the many kind words and deeds, thank you for being you

(UU)!

In faith,  
Gordon

## President's Column

Gary Clark

Summer is already here - the time of the family vacations and our Annual Meeting. The time goes by faster as I am older. Rev Gordon will be gone part of the summer, and Intern A.J. Blackwell will be stepping more to the fore.

Last month David Hostetter led us on a UU field trip to Watts Towers. In the previous 53 years, this famous attraction had not produced enough fame to attract me to visit. It was David's initiative that produced a visit by our group of UUs, with a follow-up stop at the art gallery and Watts Coffee House.

Los Angeles has many areas of where different cultural or other differences are manifested, and as the tentacles of different groups and nations across the world slowly enter into Los Angeles County. These trips enable a us to realize the greater awareness and interdependence of others, and perhaps to appreciate the myriad ways that people, things, trends, and forces interact. My personal view is that the creator of the Watts Towers, Simon Rodia, must have been an odd fellow, as least comparing him to my references, yet he nevertheless became famous. But, so did Albert Einstein.

Rev. Gordon's theme this month is 'Living Our Faith.' As the world become more connected and networked, our awareness grows of that interdependence and related issues. Now and in the coming years, we have much more awareness of the issues and the policy decisions that they call for. Social action is one channel of response, targeting areas not otherwise adequately addressed. I think many public policies might also benefit from having third-party citizens look at them. While we may bring an initial ignorance, we also possibly bring an unbiased assessment of all the direct and indirect outcomes. While it is great to have a lobbyist offer information on a specific topic, it is also good to have outside citizens offer a second look.

I continue to look to move toward using our physical facilities as a means or tool for enhancing our connections to the community, rather than as an asset which would be expected to generate revenue. The usefulness of our space to an outside user varies with the time of day and through the week. Thus, it is difficult to set a single price or rate which dramatically generates revenue, or which greatly increases utilization and UU Verdugo/UUCVH exposure. Our Congregational Administrator, Nancy Watkins, has some experience doing this other at Throop Unitarian in Pasadena.

If you have not yet met Nancy, perhaps drop by and meet her. You could even take her out for breakfast, perhaps. She is generally in our Church office from 8:30-12:30 Mon-Thursday, and plays an important role in keeping the Church moving.

Respectfully yours,

Gary N Clark



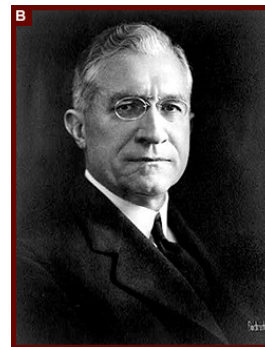
## Congregational President

**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.



**June 4, 2017**

**Renewing Our Faith  
Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey**

In this service we will look closely at our congregation, our governance and the traditions we honor. Join us for a working session complete with our vision, mission and good works.

**June 11, 2017**

**Unitarian Universalist: Hoping, Praying and Believing  
Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey**

During this service we will explore some of the many ways UU's engage their faith and spirit of life. We might even find out a particular practice may be useful to us as we deepen our own theology.



**June 18, 2017**

**The Sins of Our Fathers  
AJ Blackwood, M. Div.**

Fatherhood comes in variety of ways beyond biology. Many of us grew up with wonderful fathers who were attentive, loving and compassionate, while others did not. During this service we will engage in a time of reconciliation with our fathers - celebrating our strengths and recognizing our failures.

**June 25, 2017**

**Unitarian Universalism: A Living Tradition  
AJ Blackwood, M. Div.**

Each year approximately 6000 Unitarian Universalists gather to breathe light and love into our living tradition. This year this gathering will be in New Orleans from June 21-25. We will be reflecting during our time together in a spirit of



unity with the members of our faith tradition from all over all parts of the world.  
AJ will host a talkback following the service.



The RE program at UUCVH isn't just about childcare for our wonderful children, but really it's more about providing rich learning opportunities throughout the year that are both relevant and important to our children's lives. While we do know the principles and they are an important part of the work we engage in, a lot of our focus is on how we care for others, how we work together and how we help to make our world a better place. The children this past month worked together to create "kid-friendly" sit-upons for our service for themselves and for any children who are guests to our congregation... they helped to create beautiful window boxes to decorate the inside of the church and they helped to create a tomato garden which we hope will provide us with an abundance of fruit that we can share with our beloved church members. As you can see we are busy, busy, busy.

This month we have shifted our focus a bit to celebrate our families specifically around mother's day and father's day to help us remember the important contributions our parents make to our families and our lives. We have also been talking a lot about the differences of our families and how though our families may be different there are a lot of similarities. Each family loves their children and each family loves their church. By dialoguing about differences and similarities, we foster acceptance of others, not just tolerance of differences. Last week we delved into the important topic of transgender individuals with the help of a crayon that was blue inside but had a red wrapper. Sometimes simple at first helps children understand the complex challenges in our current world. I am happy to report the children were very able to understand the correlation of a crayon that felt different on the inside than it looked on the outside and how they identify themselves within their own families and communities. We are excited to see what is next on this journey we share together.

## **Regional Justice Training 2017**

Saturday, June 3, 9:00-3:30

Hosted by: Neighborhood Unitarian Universalist Church  
301 N. Orange Grove Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91103

### **Key Presentations Include**

#### **Sanctuary, Solidarity & Resistance – Immigrant Justice under a new administration**

Join Katia Hansen, President & CEO of UU Refugee and Immigrant Services & Education (UURISE) for a conversation on the current state of immigration laws, policies and enforcement under the new administration. We will discuss what UUs

and other immigrant justice activists are doing in solidarity and resistance, and how we can work together to deepen and strengthen our partnerships, strategies and congregational responses.

### **Climate and Water Justice**

Angélica Ruiz of the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water will lead an interactive learning experience about climate and water justice in California. You will hear about front line communities impacted by drought, loss of culture and livelihoods, and threats to their daily lives as well as what they are doing to adapt; We will explore solutions and actions you can take to support the environmental justice water movement in California and beyond.

### **Issues Breakout & Networking**

Join other UUs in the area to discuss issues such as economic justice, racial justice, environmental justice, and immigrant justice. These small group breakouts are determined based on interest the day of the event and include opportunities for justice-makers to share what they are working on in their congregations and receive updates from the Action Teams of the UU Justice Ministry.

### **Legislative Briefing**

Evan Junker, UJMC Executive Director, will explain the current status of important legislation being considered in the Capitol this year. Learn about opportunities to get involved through petitions, rallies, witness events, letter-writing campaigns and lobby days among others. Discover how your congregation can participate in these statewide efforts and leave with a calendar of upcoming events.

Please bring a bag lunch. Coffee, tea, water and morning snacks will be available.

Learn More or Register Today! [uujmca.org/rjt-la-sfv](http://uujmca.org/rjt-la-sfv) Questions:  
Beverly Boido, [beverly@uujmca.org](mailto:beverly@uujmca.org), 916-441-0018

Host Congregation Contact: Stephanie Ballard [sballard@neighborhooduu.org](mailto:sballard@neighborhooduu.org) 626-449-3470x18



### **Ladies Luncheon**

Community Hall  
June 9, 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.

Friday, May 11 Women's Luncheon. Food is always good. Men are welcome to attend. Last month we had Rev Gordon with us.

### **Guest Chef**

Ascencia, 1851 Tyburn St, Glendale, CA 91204  
June 9, 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!](#)



## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend. This year GA will be held in New Orleans.

We will be live streaming the following events in the Fellowship Hall.

- **Wednesday, June 21**  
Opening Ceremony: Welcoming Celebration and General Session I 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM  
<http://www.uua.org/ga/program/highlights/banner-parade>
- **Thursday, June 22**  
Worship: Service of the Living Tradition 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM  
<http://www.uua.org/ga/program/highlights/slt>
- **Friday, June 23**  
Forum: Presidential Candidates Forum 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM  
<http://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/elections/president>
- **Saturday, June 24**  
Worship: Synergy Bridging Worship 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM  
<http://www.uua.org/ga/past/2015/worship/bridging>  
Ware Lecture by Bryan Stevenson 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM  
<http://www.uua.org/ga/program/highlights/ware-lecture>
- **Sunday, June 25**  
General Session V and Closing 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Each day many more events will be live streamed. To view a full schedule of the free Worship Services, General Meetings, and Workshops. Click here: <http://www.uua.org/ga/off-site>

If you would like to Register for GA there are many more workshops and educational sessions available. Click here to register: <http://www.uua.org/ga/registration/off-site>

## UUVerdugo and Interfaith Calendar

Sun June 4	<b>Pentecost - All Christians</b>	
	<b>10:30am – 11:30am</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
	<b>11:30am – 12:30pm</b>	<b>First Potluck</b>
	<b>12:15am – 1:15pm</b>	<b>Religious Education Committee</b>
Fri June 9	<b>St. Columba of Iona - Celtic Christian</b>	
	<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 June 11	<b>Trinity Sunday- Christian</b>	
	<b>9:00am – 10:00am</b>	<b>Membership Committee</b>
	<b>10:30am – 11:30am</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
Wed June 14	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>



Thu June 15      Corpus Christi - **Catholic Christian**  
Saint Vladimir - **Christian**  
**7:00pm – 8:00pm**      **White People for Racial Justice -**  
Neighborhood UU

Fri June 16      Guru Arjan martyrdom - **Sikh**

Sun June 18      Father's Day  
**10:30am – 11:30am**      **Worship Service - Children's Chapel**  
**12:30am – 1:30pm**      **Social Action Committee**

Mon June 19      New Church Day - **Swedenborgian Christian**

Wed June 21      Solstice  
First Nations Day - **Canadian Native People**  
Litha - **Wicca/Pagan** northern hemisphere  
Yule \* - **Wicca/Pagan** southern hemisphere  
**4:30pm**      **Committee on Ministry**

Thu June 22      Laylat al Kadr \* - **Islam**

Fri June 23      Sacred Heart of Jesus - **Catholic Christian**

Sun June 25      **10:30am – 11:30am**      **Worship Service**

Mon June 26 -28      Eid al Fitr - **Islam**

Thu June 29      Feast Day of Saints Peter and Paul - **Christian**

### 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

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