

# the Outlook



Welcome to the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Verdugo Hills,  
Where all are accepted;  
Where we cherish the process of developing our own spiritual path;  
Where we respectfully support the paths of others.

August 2011  
Volume 16  
Issue 8

## Ministerial Musings

In our hymnal *Singing the Living Tradition* we have a song called “Every Night and Every Morn”. One of the verses goes like this: “Joy and woe are woven fine, clothing for the soul divine: under every grief and pine runs a joy with silken twine.” I have been thinking a lot about those words in recent weeks, particularly after learning of the death of the close friend of one of our UUCVH teens. In the months of June and July, I was attending General Assembly in North Carolina and celebrating wonderful times on vacation with family and friends in Massachusetts, Maryland, and Delaware. But shortly before we left for our trips, we got a communication from Tom’s brother that his wife was critically ill. Then we returned to Thousand Oaks and the comfort of our home only to get the news that the husband of a beloved former babysitter to our youngest son had died, leaving his wife in total despair. Life certainly seems to be a mixture of both joy and sorrow lately.

Then there is the next verse of the song: “It is right it should be so: we were made for joy and woe; and when this we rightly know, safely through the world we go.” All I can say to that is a giant NO! We may understand that happiness and grief are a part of life, but that doesn’t make it OK. And it certainly doesn’t help us to feel safe in the world when devastating experiences come along. In a time of grief and loss, it seems as though nothing good could ever happen again. Sorrow is just hard; and, unfortunately, the only way out is through it.

So what can we do? One thing is to gather together with those who share our pain and bring what comfort we can to each other. Another is to find ways in which to honor the memory of lost ones through whatever means we can find. It may simply be a time of quiet meditation alone or with friends or the planting of a special memorial plant or tree. It may be a ritual of comfort through music or words or stories spoken. It may be the sharing of a hug or a marker in a place that was special to us or to the one that we have lost. Each of us must find our own answers.

What we must not do is simply try to forget or deny that we are feeling the pain of loss. Each of us must find a way to acknowledge what we are feeling and to sit with it and ourselves until we can bear life again. Certainly life is full of joy and woe, but we cannot simply accept either one and just go on. We must find comfort for our pain and loss and ways to be there for each other in both sorrow and joy.

I am glad that we have the gift of this religious community to provide the support we all need. We are fortunate indeed.

Blessings, Rev. Betty

**Unitarian Universalist  
Church  
of the Verdugo Hills**

[www.uuverdugo.org](http://www.uuverdugo.org)

**4451 Dunsmore Ave  
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(818)248-3954**

**Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford**

Ann Miller-Rillo, Board President  
Howard Richman, Vice-President  
(Open), Secretary  
Deane Phinney, Treasurer  
Jeanne Akerley, Office Manager  
& Newsletter Editor



## Our Mission Statement

*“UUCVH is a growing and welcoming community, offering a diverse spiritual landscape for an informed search for truth and meaning. We promote social justice, work to affirm the dignity of all people, and respect the interdependent web of all existence.”*

## President's Message

### Janet and Charles, the Weymanns

I gathered a bit of information from Jan and Charlie about their involvement with Unitarian Universalism to share with you. Their ties go back to the early 1960's when they moved to the area with their three children, one of them just a 'babe in arms' as Jan said. With the Unitarian Fellowship of the Foothills at that time, the major social issues were the Viet Nam war and Civil Rights. People with young families were looking for a place of action as well as solace. The UFF, founded in 1959 was just the place. At first, members met in private homes, then at the Crescenta-Canada YMCA, and finally in 1962 they began meeting at the Oak Grove School in La Canada, where membership grew rapidly. Along with the adult membership, the Religious Education program was thriving, with more than fifty children attending. Jan was R.E. Director during that time of expansion. As with all organizations there were ups and downs, plans made, disagreements, and through it all the Weymanns were there, not just there...but actively there! In 1976 the membership of UFF purchased the church at 4451 Dunsmore Ave. in La Crescenta. The Unitarian Fellowship of the Foothills and the Burbank Fellowship merged in 1990.

Jan has served in the Membership Committee, the Social Action Circle and Religious Education. She has been on the 'Flower Committee', bringing arrangements for the sanctuary over the years. One of her favorite activities is the 5th Monday dinner for Project Achieve. She liked preparing the dinner, serving it and especially visiting with the folks who are getting their lives together. Recently she and Charlie served on the committee to develop our Covenant of Right Relations. She said to me that what she likes best about UUism is the intellectual stimulation.

Charlie's list is long and varied as well. He was our Building Maintenance committee for fifteen years. And along the way he served as President of the Board of Trustees: four times, Vice President: two times, Secretary: two times. And he has played his violin during Sunday services. Together Jan and Charlie's memories go back to UU picnics, camping trips...with horses, art walks, pledge drives, rummage sales, Valentine and Halloween parties, taking foster-care kids shopping for back-to-school clothes, filling Move-In- Baskets.

Unitarian Universalists all the way....what an example they have set.  
We wish you well on your new adventure in Templeton.

Ann Miller Rillo



### **WORSHIP TASK FORCE**

**Sunday, August 21st 12:30 to 2:00 pm**

Participants are asked to bring their own lunches.

Beverages will be furnished.



### **MEDITATION GROUP**

Cleo R. is planning to form a meditation group.

If you are interested, please contact her for further details.

DRAFT

# UUCVH BOARD MEETING BRIEF

## July 21, 2011

**Present:** President Ann Rillo, Vice-President Howard Richman, Treasurer Deane Phinney, Trustees Paula Hallowell, Gary Clark, Minister Rev. Betty Stapleford. **Absent:** Pat Berberian,

President Ann Rillo called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm. Members checked in and the chalice was lit. The minutes for the meetings of May 12, 2011 and June 9, 2011 were approved.

**Minister Report:** Rev. Betty reviewed some of the actions that have been taken on issues discussed at the June 11 Board Retreat. She has ordered books on Appreciative Inquiry for our library. The Worship Task Force will meet in August. Eight or nine surveys distributed to our congregation have been returned. There has been discussion about the reestablishment of our choir.

Rev. Betty plans to meet on Aug. 1 with a few of the younger members of the church to discuss our church program.

The Committee on Ministry has suggested that a teacher for Religious Education for younger children be hired and that volunteers be used to work with teenagers. By consensus the board will ask the Religious Education Committee to consider this suggestion and return to the board with a recommendation in August.

**Treasurer:** Deane Phinney distributed the financial statements for the 2010 – 2011 fiscal year and for the current month. The reports will be filed for review. The changes to the 2011 – 2012 budget made by the Finance Committee at the end of the last fiscal year were discussed and adopted by consensus.

**Committees:** A discussion was held on the composition of committees for the new fiscal year that are required by the bylaws. Current committee chairs will be asked to continue. Committees will have a liaison to the board. Suggestions were made for additional committee members.

**Committee Reports:**

**Facilities** - Paula reported that the plumbing problem in the kitchen had been rectified.

**Aesthetics** - Paula has contacted Cleo R. to plan a tour to the Gamble House to look at the craftsman architecture. Dene H. has looked at the window framing in the sanctuary. He will fix the peeling plaster, remove the tiles around the windows and add craftsman style molding for \$960. A motion was made to accept his offer. MSC.

**Membership Committee** - A new questionnaire is being prepared to send to visitors.

**Social Action** – Poker nights are being planned. Money collected will be contributed to PATH Achieve Glendale.

**Beauty and Order** - Celia has requested the names of persons who could substitute for her in making coffee when she is unable to attend on Sunday morning. Paula volunteered.

**Board Meeting Date Change:** The date for the regular meeting of the board was changed to the third Wednesday of the month at 6:00pm. The next meeting will be August 17.

**Board Secretary:** The position of secretary of the board is still open.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Deane Phinney, Acting Secretary



## INGATHERING SUNDAY

### September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Celebrating the first Sunday of the new church year with a “Water Communion” is a long-standing Unitarian Universalist tradition. Please bring a small amount of water to church from some place that you have been during the summer – even if it is your own backyard or water faucet – and be prepared to tell us a little about its importance to you. It will mark the celebration of our connections to our amazing UU community.

## SOCIAL ACTION CIRCLE

Well, we're at it again. Your Social Action Circle has come up with yet another idea for you to show your concern for some less fortunate than you and have fun at the same time.

But first, financial news: At the end of the 2010-2011 fiscal year, the Social Action Circle had a surplus of \$437.01. Members of the Circle voted to contribute that sum to UU Service Committee (UUSC) to be earmarked for what the UUSC continues to do in Haiti. That check was sent recently. As members of the church, that is your contribution. Thank you.

The Circle is sponsoring a semi-monthly **Poker Fun Night**. It will cost you only \$5.00, and for that paltry sum you can have an evening of enjoyment with your friends here at the church by playing Texas Hold 'Em poker. As some of our members already know, you don't have to be a pro to have a good time.

- Here's how it will work. Your \$5.00 donation will be collected at the door. Each of you will be given an allotment of chips. A short course will be provided for those who have never played the game. Then the fun begins. If you happen to run out of chips, you may purchase more. At the end of the night, the winner will receive (in addition to bragging rights) a "Winner's Badge" that you can show to your kids and grandkids. Snacks will be provided by the Circle, and you can bring your beverage of choice.
- All the proceeds from the night's activities will go toward a \$50 grocery gift card that will be given to "graduates" from PATH Achieve Glendale – the same people who receive our Move-In Baskets. The gift card in an envelope will be added to the baskets as one more thing that a family needs when starting up housekeeping.

The fun begins on **Saturday, August 27, at 6:30 pm**. If you would rather play another favorite game of your own, bring it along – maybe you'll find someone to play with. Again, you don't have to bring your own snacks, but do bring something to drink. If you have any questions, see Jeanne Akerley or Jerry Buchanan.

Yet another way your Social Action Circle is showing how the people of this church really care about the interdependent web of all existence.

Jerry Buchanan, Chair of Social Action Circle

## Movie Night

**Paula Hallowell, Director**

### THIS MONTH'S MOVIE

**Tuesday, August 9, 7:00 pm**

**"Milk" 2008** R 129 minutes

- Sean Penn (in an Oscar-winning role) stars in this fact-based drama about Harvey Milk, the openly gay activist and San Francisco politician who was murdered along with Mayor George Moscone (Victor Garber) by disgruntled city supervisor Dan White (Josh Brolin) in 1978. Emile Hirsch, James Franco and Diego Luna co-star in director Gus Van Sant's compelling biopic, which also earned Oscar nods for Best Picture and Best Supporting Actor (Brolin).

### NEXT MONTH'S MOVIE

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

**"Piaf: Her Story, Her Songs" 2003** Not Rated 95 min.

- Edith Piaf, France's "Little Sparrow", is celebrated here as one of her greatest interpreters – French jazz singer Raquel Bitton – provides a tour of her life through stories and songs. The 16-song tribute includes performances of Piaf standards such as "La Vie en Rose" and "A Hymn to Love" interwoven with stories from her family, friends and colleagues, who gathered to share their memories at a bistro near the cemetery where she's buried.

## This Month in UU History

1815: Richard Dana was born. He wrote about his experiences in *Two Years Before the Mast*, a graphic account of sailor's ship-life. He helped found the anti-slavery Free Soil party and as a lawyer, defended numerous runaway slaves.

1818: Maria Mitchell was born. She was a noted astronomer and discovered Mitchell's Comet.

1820: Theodore Parker was born. He routinely preached to crowds of up to 3,000. He took escaped slaves into his home and wrote his sermons with a loaded gun on his desk to protect them if necessary.

1839: Francis Bret Harte was born. He wrote about his experiences working among miners in *The Luck of Roaring Camp* and *The Outcasts of Poker Flat*.

1920: Ray Bradbury was born. His work combined social and technological criticism with science fiction. His better-known books are *The Martian Chronicles*, *Fahrenheit 451*, *Dandelion Wine* and *Something Wicked This Way Comes*.

Want to learn more? All material presented here is from Frank Shulman's "This Day in Unitarian Universalist History", now available for browsing in the UUCVH office – take a look!



## AUGUST EVENTS AT DE BENNEVILLE PINES

### Lazy Days of Summer

**Sunday to Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

Come by yourself, with a friend or with a family of any size for an entire summer week! Enjoy the camp in a relaxed, un-programmed environment. Enjoy the pool, hot tub, canoeing, archery, playground, basketball and volleyball. Go on a hike, read, sunbathe, take pictures, hangout, meditate ... whatever you prefer. Meals will be provided – show up if you want, or stay in bed if you want more sleep!

\$280 Adults and Teens

\$250 Children from 3 to 12

\$80 Baby to Toddler 0 to 2

Sign up at [www.uucamp.org](http://www.uucamp.org) or call 909-794-2928

### PSWIRL Summer Camp for Grownups

**Sunday to Friday, Aug. 21 to Aug. 26, 2011**

The UU-oriented nonprofit Pacific South West Institute of Religious Liberals (PSWIRL) is holding their annual summer camp. Relax, swim, or take part in a wide variety of workshops and activities – the choice is yours! The Theme Speakers are Michael Dowd (Unitarian Universalist Minister) and Connie Barlow (Scientist) and the theme is "Thank God for Evolution, the Marriage of Science and Religion".

Per person – from \$345 to \$460 and includes all meals and workshops for the week.

Register at [www.uucamp.org](http://www.uucamp.org) or call 909-794-2928



### **CONGRATULATIONS MAX!**

Max was honored in a Bridging Ceremony on Sunday, July 24, 2011 upon graduating from Glendale High School. He will be entering Pasadena City College in the fall. Max, RE Director Lauren Eaton and Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford all spoke briefly during this happy occasion.



### **FEEDING THE COWS**

This is one of the things Vickie G. spent her days doing while she was visiting her sister, Susan in Salina, Oklahoma. You go, girl!

**CLUSTER WEEKEND**  
**Camp de Benneville Pines**  
**October 14, 15, 16, 2011**



We hope that many from UUCVH will join in the cluster weekend with members of the Studio City, Sepulveda, Emerson, and Santa Clarita UU congregations on October 14, 15, and 16. We have flyers and registration forms in the Fellowship Hall. Rev. Betty and Tom will be going and look forward to having you join them for a fun-filled and inspiring time at our UU camp in the San Bernardino Mountains.

**A Month of Sundays**  
**August Service Information**

**August 7**

“Dreams – What Are They Good For?”

From the Bible to modern science, dreams play a role in understanding, in human behavior, and in creativity and accomplishment. What can we say about this? What does it mean to dream?

**August 14**

“Letting Go and Moving Forward”

Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford

Probably all of us have heard the words of the Serenity Prayer, attributed to theologian Reinhold Neibuhr, that encourages us to accept the things we cannot change; have the courage to change the things we can; and find the wisdom to know the difference. But that is not always as easy as we might want it to be. We want things to go a certain way and have difficulty accepting anything else. At this service we will explore ways to find acceptance, wisdom and courage for our lives.

**August 21**

“Finishing Life Well”

Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford

We hear a lot today about beginning life well, and a great deal of our advertising and media seem to emphasize the importance of staying young. But what does it mean to find value in our lives as they get nearer to their end point? How do we make the most of the last quarter of our lives – however long that may be? Maybe we need to start practicing now so that we will be prepared to transform our physical, spiritual, and intellectual lives in preparation for the future, whatever it may bring.

**August 28**

“Hope Needs Only Hands and Hearts”

Marc Adams, *Guest Speaker*

With so many GLBT youth on the streets and being kicked out of their homes in record numbers, Marc Adams feels it’s time to change the dynamics of the coming out experience. He is the author of “It’s Not About You: Understanding Coming Out and Self-Acceptance”. His book is a practical guide for family and friends of those coming out. Coming out is a gift of honesty and his book lights the way to accepting that gift and maintaining relationships based on love.



Rev. Betty and Tom Stapleford attended the UUA General Assembly in Charlotte, North Carolina in June. Tom, as our church's representative, carried our church's banner during the festivities.



### GETTING TO KNOW UU

On August 28 and September 11, Rev. Betty will be facilitating sessions, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. for potential UUCVH members and others who would like to explore Unitarian Universalism, their own spiritual journeys, and the workings of our congregation. If you would like more information or want to sign up, please contact Rev. Betty at [bstaple4d@aol.com](mailto:bstaple4d@aol.com) or 805-630-8117, or you can leave a message for her at the UUCVH office number - 818-248-3954.

## *Save the date!*

<i>Every Friday</i>	<i>Watercolor Class at Manon's -- 10 am</i>
<i>Monday, August 1</i>	<i>Knitting Circle -- 7:00 pm</i>
<i>Sunday, August 7</i>	<i>Salad Luncheon -- noon</i>
<i>Monday, August 8</i>	<i>Membership Committee -- 7:30 pm</i>
<i>Tuesday, August 9</i>	<i>Movie Night "Milk" -- 7:00 pm</i>
<i>Wednesday, August 10</i>	<i>Women's Potluck Luncheon -- 11:30 am</i>
<i>Wednesday, August 17</i>	<i>Board Meeting -- 6 pm</i>
<i>Sunday, August 14</i>	<i>Picnic at Tom and Rev. Betty's home -- 1 pm</i>
<i>Monday, August 15</i>	<i>Women's Potluck Dinner -- 6 pm</i>
<i>Tuesday, August 16</i>	<i>Outlook Deadline</i>
<i>Sunday, August 21</i>	<i>Early Coffee and Goodies -- 9:30 am</i>
	<i>Social Action Circle -- noon</i>
	<i>Worship Task Force -- 12:30 pm</i>
<i>Saturday, August 27</i>	<i>Poker Fun Night -- 6:30 pm</i>
<i>Sunday, August 28</i>	<i>Getting to Know UU Session -- 12:30 pm</i>
<i>Monday, August 29</i>	<i>Guest Chef Prep - 2:30, Serve - 6:00 pm</i>

**Caution: Dates on Calendar May Be Closer Than They Appear**

<i>Monday, Sept. 5</i>	<i>Labor Day</i>
<i>Sunday, Sept. 11</i>	<i>Ingathering Service with Water Ceremony</i>
	<i>Getting to Know UU Session -- 12:30 pm</i>
<i>Sunday, Sept. 18</i>	<i>Worship Workshop -- 12:30 pm</i>

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 4451 Dunsmore Ave. La Crescenta, CA 91214

# AUGUST 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 4:30 pm Under 50 Cohort  7 pm Knitting Circle	2	3	4	5  10 am Watercolor Class at Manon's	6
7  10:30 am Worship Service "Dreams – What Are They Good For?"  12 Noon, Salad Luncheon	8  7:30 pm Membership Committee	9  7 pm Movie Night "Milk"	10  11:30 am Women's Potluck Luncheon	11	12  10 am Watercolor Class at Manon's	13
14  10:30 am Worship Service "Letting Go & Moving Forward" Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford  1pm Picnic at Stapleford home	15  6 pm Women's Potluck Dinner	16  Outlook Newsletter Deadline	17  6:00 pm Board Meeting	18	19  10 am Watercolor Class at Manon's	20
21  9:30 am Early Coffee Hour  10:30 am Worship Service "Finishing Life Well" Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford  12 Noon, Social Action Circle  12:30 pm Worship Task Force	22	23	24  7:30 pm Committee on Ministry	25	26  10 am Watercolor Class at Manon's	27  6:30 pm Poker Fun Night
28  10:30 am Worship Service "Hope Needs Only Hands and Hearts" Marc Adams, <i>Guest Speaker</i>  12:30 pm Getting to Know UU Session	29  2:30 pm Guest Chef Preparation  6 pm Guest Chef Serve	30	31			