

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.



October 2011
Volume 16
Issue 10

MINISTERIAL MUSINGS

One of the joys that I have as the minister at UUCVH is the opportunity to write a weekly response in the newspaper to a question relating to a current issue. While some from our congregation see them in the Glendale News Press or on-line, I am aware that not everyone has that opportunity. So I would like to share my September 28th column with you below. I hope you find it interesting.

“I admit I was not surprised that Americans over the last twenty years have been moving away from specific religious denominations and traditions and modifying their beliefs to suit their own individual preferences. However, I do not believe we can characterize such shifts as “cherry-picking.” The world is a very different place than it was twenty years ago, and people are reacting in ways that make sense to them in light of new, and sometimes frightening, changes.

What some people have discovered is that the restrictive dogmas of many traditional Christian denominations or other faith traditions no longer fit the situations they face today. What I hear from many young couples who ask me to officiate at their weddings is that they consider themselves “spiritual” but not “religious.” They want to find their own spiritual paths – paths that inspire them to live with integrity in today’s world – outside the strictures of some narrow creed.

To the question about the culpability of the clergy for some of the declines in religious affiliation, I would have to answer, “Yes.” When a religious tradition gets locked in the past, it is no wonder that people turn away from beliefs that are no longer relevant to them. As those who are called to be the bearers of the truths of religion to congregants, the clergy must not simply rely on the same old ways of explaining what life and faith mean in a new age. To quote poet and lyricist James Russell Lowell: “New occasions teach new duties.” If members of the clergy fail to make their messages germane to the realities that people are facing, they and their faith tradition may well be left in the dust.

I feel very fortunate indeed that the religious tradition I have been called to serve encourages its members and clergy to think and deliberate for themselves in light of past experience, present evidence and future spiritual possibilities. UUs may be accused of many things, but we continue to join together in an ongoing search for truth and meaning wherever that may lead. Blessed be!”

Blessings, Rev. Betty

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Verdugo Hills

www.uuverdugo.org

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Church office: (818) 248-3954

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Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford

Ann Miller-Rillo, *Board President*
Howard Richman, *Vice-President*
Cleo Rogers, *Acting Secretary*
Deane Phinney, *Treasurer*
Jeanne Akerley, *Office Manager &
Newsletter Editor*

Office Hours:
Tuesday and Friday
11:00 am to 3:00 pm



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

Once again, we've passed through the Autumnal Equinox and are now looking forward to the fourth quarter of the year 2011. We must thank Howard Richman and the fourth quarter Services Committee for their plans to fill the pulpit on those Sundays when our minister, Reverend Dr. Betty Stapleford will not be here. If you have not served on a Services Committee recently, I urge you to do so. The quality of our services depends on each of us.

NOTICES:

UUCVH is slated to host the Valley Vespers Service this month. Save this date: Wednesday, October 26th at 7:30 p.m. Each minister in our cluster will present a short sermon, and of course, there will be hymns. It will be inspirational to hear their messages. Refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall. If you are inclined to bake cookies or make your special dip, please get in touch with Celia Eiben, our Hospitality Coordinator. The social hour is always a wonderful opportunity to connect with our sister congregations, see old friends and make new friends as well.

I want to give a special Thank You to the "Home & Gardens Floral Society." Week after week, Charlotte Holley and Edith Young bring beauty and grace into our sanctuary with their inspirational floral arrangements. Thank you both.

Another special thanks goes to Celia Eiben. Celia gets the coffee started every Sunday morning . . . mmmm the aroma of fresh coffee. She puts the goodies on the table, and then she puts it all away. I know some of you help with the clean-up . . . thanks to each of you as well.

&

Thank you, Membership Committee.
Thank you, Social Action Circle.
Thank you, Sound Engineers.
Thank you, Paula Hallowell. Building & maintenance / Movie night / Aesthetics.
Thank you, Finance Committee . . . \$\$\$ matters.
Thanks to our newly formed By-laws Committee: Florence Chase, Linda Hunt, and Edith Young.
Thank you, Office Manager. You keep us ship-shape.
Thank you, Manon, the banner is lovely.
Thanks to the knitters.
Thank you, Board members & Trustees, your dedication to keeping our little ship afloat is commendable.

In other words, it takes all of us to make our congregation as wonderful as it is!!!

(Continued)

We have a very exciting development coming soon. Three special Board meetings were held with Forest Hunt to consider his proposal for his Boy Scout Eagle Award. The Board gave final conditional approval for Forest to build an open arbor just outside the double doors in the hallway connecting the Sanctuary to the Fellowship Hall. The arbor will be 11' x 16' and between 9' and 10' tall.

He proposes to do the work on the first weekend in October. Thank you, Forest.

And finally: Are you a Chalice Lighter? Yes? . . . Thank you.. If not, why not???

My best to you for a wonderfully fulfilling UUCVH month.

I send my love,

Ann Miller Rillo



CLUSTER WEEKEND Friday to Sunday October 14, 15 & 16, 2011 Camp de Benneville Pines

It's time to register for the Cluster Weekend. Get your registration form in the Fellowship Hall and join folks from Studio City, Sepulveda, Emerson, and Santa Clarita UU congregations for a fun-filled and inspiring time at our UU camp in the San Bernardino Mountains.

Rev. Betty and Tom will be at the Valley Cluster Weekend, but you can call the UUCVH office at 818-248-3954 for information. You can also call Rev. Betty on her cell phone - 805-630-8117, and she will return your call. In addition, other UU clergy will be available for emergencies; and Jeanne Akerley will have contact information for them.

DRAFT of SPECIAL UUCVH BOARD MEETINGS

Aug. 28, Sept. 4, Sept. 18, 2011

Three Special Board Meetings were held with Forest Hunt to consider his proposed project for his Boy Scout Eagle Award. The Board gave final conditional approval for Forest to build an open arbor in the space outside the double doors in the hallway connecting the sanctuary to the Fellowship Hall. The arbor would be 11' x 16' and between 9' and 10' tall. Forest proposes to do the work on the first weekend in October.

DRAFT of UUCVH BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 21, 2011

Present: President Ann Rillo, Treasurer Deane Phinney, Trustee Paula Hallowell, Minister Rev. Betty Stapleford, Acting Secretary Cleo Rogers.

Absent: Vice President Howard Richman, Trustees Gary Clark, Pat Berberian

President Ann Rillo called the meeting to order at 6:10pm. Members checked in and the chalice was lit.

Approval of the minutes for the meetings of August 17, August 28, September 4 and September 18 was deferred for lack of a quorum.

Cleo Rogers indicated that she is willing to accept the position of Board Secretary and her appointment will be recommended for approval at the next board meeting.

Treasurer: Deane Phinney distributed the financial statement dated September 21, 2011. She distributed a paper showing the account values of our Schwab investments over the past year and noted their stability. She suggested that appreciation be extended to Gary Clark for his management work in this area.

After discussion it was decided that a review of the financial records be done each year and that the Finance Committee will be asked to participate.

Minister Report: Rev. Betty reported on her activities during the past month. She noted that she will attend the Burbank Ministerial Association meeting tomorrow and will attend the Cluster Weekend at Camp de Benneville Pines in October.

Canvass Committee: A discussion was held on appointment of members to the Canvass Committee in order for the committee to begin planning for next year's canvass.

Growing our Church: Board members discussed the suggestions made in a letter from M'Lou Dietzer about ideas to grow our church and will act on those that are feasible.

Vespers: The Valley Cluster Vespers will be held at our church on October 26. A discussion was held on readying our facilities for the event.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Cleo Rogers, Acting Secretary

Movie Night

Paula Hallowell, Director



NEW DAYS!

Thursday, October 20, 2011 at 7 PM
"Trilogy of Terror"

1975 Not Rated 72 min.

Karen Black plays four roles in this collection of three creepy tales from the director of the classic serial "Dark Shadows". One of the rare TV movies to attain cult status, Trilogy of Terror is famous for the third story, "Amelia". In that segment, a deadly Zuni voodoo doll pursues Black. In "Julie", Black plays a teacher who has a disturbing relationship with a student. In "Millicent and Therese", she plays both good and evil in a set of twins.

NEXT MONTH'S MOVIE

Friday, November 11, 2011 at 7 PM
"Andy Warhol:
The Complete Picture"

2001 Not Rated 104 min.

Andy Warhol, one of the most influential artists of the 20th century (who also coined the immortal catchphrase "In the future, everyone will be famous for 15 minutes"), gets the definitive treatment. This film includes a look into his inner circle and examines both his artistic and personal impact on society. From day-glo Marilyns and Elvises to Campbell's soup cans to the groovy 1960s and '70s, step into the limelight of the Warhol world.

SOCIAL ACTION CIRCLE

The Texas Hold 'em poker night of August 27 was a great success! Eight people participated in a night of refreshments and laughs and . . . oh yeah . . . we played some poker. To go along with the move-in baskets we are supplying to families moving from the shelter to transitional housing, we now can give a \$50 grocery gift card to better help some get started. We raised \$55 for the evening, allowing us to rollover \$5 for the next card we buy. We will be holding these fund-raisers periodically to get more gift cards. We hope you will join us the next time. Watch for the date.

The big winner for the night was Tom Stapleford. He received the Poker Champ badge and you'll see from the attached photo that he wore it proudly. (The big loser was Jerry Buchanan; he did not win one single hand due to his conservative playing. You won't see his name with the word "conservative" close by very many times.) SAC member Jeanne Akerley created the badge and has a few more for future winners.

The local shelter mentioned above has gone through some restructuring, but fortunately, their operations remain the same—offering much needed services to the local homeless community. They are no longer part of the PATH network; they are an independent entity. At a recent fund-raising dinner, a total of \$350,000 was raised! Actual expenses haven't been totaled yet, but you can be sure that a wonderful percentage of that money will go directly to help the homeless. At that same dinner, it was announced that the shelter's name has now been changed to Ascencia. So, what we have been calling PATH Achieve Glendale for years is now Ascencia.

The family who received the gift card mentioned (along with a move-in basket) has been homeless for almost two years. There are four children with their mother, who once all lived in their car. They finally were able to live in a couple of shelters before getting their apartment through Ascencia where they can now feel comfortable, keep their own hours, and finally eat Mom's home-cooking that the kids have missed for so long. Thank you, poker players, for making this possible.

Jerry Buchanan, SAC Chair



BURBANK TEMPORARY AID CENTER

BTAC has lost over \$40,000 in federal funds. They are in need of volunteers, food, **new** socks and underwear and warm clothes for adults. For Thanksgiving this year they are going to need over 1,000 turkeys. Your help would be much appreciated.



FRIENDSHIP DINNERS Saturday, October 8, 2011 approx. 6:00 pm

Set aside the date for another enjoyable evening of good food and good conversation. Be on the lookout for the sign-up sheet that is circulating in the Fellowship Hall right now. Once signed, you will be assigned to a hostess' home and be asked to bring a dish. It's a fun way to get to know everyone better!



POKER FUN NIGHT

Tom Stapleford was the winner during the Poker Fun Night on August 27th. As he proudly displayed the Poker Champ badge on his chest, the other “disgruntled” players couldn’t resist giving him donkey ears.



WORLD RELIGIONS CLASS

**Tuesdays, starting October 18th through November 15th
7:00 to 9:00 pm**

Don’t miss the opportunity to explore five major world religions with other UUCVH members and friends in a class facilitated by Rev.

Betty. The religions we will include are: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. If you would like to register or get further information, please contact Rev. Betty at bstaple4d@aol.com or 805-630-8117.



VALLEY VESPERS

Wednesday, October 26, 2011 7:30 pm

Here at Verdugo Hills!

Do join us for the Valley Vespers Service when we host the other congregations in our UU Cluster. We will welcome congregants from the Emerson, Santa Clarita, Sepulveda, and Studio City Unitarian Universalist congregations for music, inspirational readings, sermons by four of our local ministers (including Rev. Betty), fellowship, and refreshments. See you there!



KID KITS

Terresa Jones has created Kid Kits to be handed out to children of visitors to keep them entertained during our services. The kits have pictures to be colored, a small pack of crayons, puzzles, games and more, all based on our UU Principles. What a clever idea! Thank you Terresa!



WE’LL MISS YOU JASON!

After eight years of playing beautiful music for us, Jason McNally has accepted a new position as organist at First Grace Presbyterian Church in Long Beach. We wish you much success and thank you for all the Sundays of lovely music Jason!

A Month of Sundays

October 2

“Ministry is What We Do Together” – Association Sunday
Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford

On this Sunday morning, we will be exploring the meaning of ministry for our congregation and the ways that we share that calling with each other. There will be a Special Collection during the service to support the ongoing training of Unitarian Universalist ministers and members of the congregations in our UU Association.

October 9

“Should We Be Allowed to Choose to Die?”

The UUCVH Players, *Guest Speakers*

The UUCVH Players will do excerpts from the Glendale News Press *In Theory* column.

October 16

“Odd Arrangements and Funny Solutions” by Helen Lutton
Cohen

Howard Richman, *Guest Speaker*

This will be a presentation of a sermon from our UUA.

October 23

“The Goal of World Community”

Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford

The United Nations has been controversial since its formation in 1945. On this United Nations Sunday, we will look at the ways in which our 6th Unitarian Universalist Principle calls us to join with other countries of the world to make the life better for all the people. Our youth and members of our congregation will share some of their stories about the challenges of life in a global community. Feel free to come in costume.

October 30

“What Is Spirituality Anyway?”

Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford

We hear a lot of people talking about spirituality as though we all know what it is and agree about what it means. But it doesn't take us long when we get into discussion about it to discover that it is much more complex than we thought. During this service, we will try to demystify the word and discover the many and various ways it can influence and inspire our lives.

*** Women's Potluck Luncheon will meet on Wednesday, October 12, at 11:30 am.

*** Women's Monday night Potluck Dinner will not be held until further notice.



THE EASY WAY TO HELP OUR CHURCH FOR A YEAR!

We now have scan bar letters for you to turn in at the register during your next purchase at Ralphs. If you would like Ralphs to donate a percentage of your purchases to our church, please pick up one of the scan bar letters on the refreshment table in the Fellowship Hall. We will even send you one if you like. Just call the office at 818-248-3954.



DIRECTORY ADDITION

Please add the following information to your directory:

David Tyner

Email: dtyner@mac.com
(David's address is on file in the office)



GETTING TO KNOW UU

Two Sundays
October 9 & 23
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

Rev. Betty will be facilitating special sessions 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 or 805-630-8117, or you can leave a message for her at the UUCVH office number - 818-248-3954.

Save the date!

Every Friday Watercolor Class at Manon's -- 10 am
 Sunday, Oct. 2 Salad Luncheon -- noon
 Monday, Oct. 3 **Gnu UUs** (Younger Adult Group) -- 4:30 pm
 Knitting Circle -- 7:00 pm
 Sunday, Oct. 9 **Getting to Know UU I** -- 12:30 pm
 Monday, Oct. 10 Membership Committee-- 7:30 pm
 Wed., Oct. 12 Women's Potluck Luncheon -- 11:30 am
 Sunday, Oct 16 Early Coffee and Goodies -- 9:30 am
 Social Action Circle -- noon
 Tuesday, Oct. 18 **World Religions Class** -- 7:00 pm
 Outlook Deadline
 Wed., Oct. 19 Board Meeting -- 6:00 pm
 Thu. Oct. 20 **Movie Night "Trilogy of Terror"**, 7 pm
 Sunday, Oct. 23 **Getting to Know UU II** -- 12:30 pm
 Monday, Oct. 24 Committee on Ministry -- 7:30 pm
 Tuesday, Oct. 25 **World Religions Class** -- 7:00 pm
 Wed., Oct. 26 **Valley Vespers here at UUCVH** -- 7:30 pm
 Monday, Oct. 31 Halloween
 Guest Chef Prep. 2:30 pm & Serve 6:00 pm

the Outlook

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 4451 Dunsmore Ave. La Crescenta, CA 91214

This Month in UU History

1635: Court of Massachusetts banished Roger Williams from the colony over his insistence on full religious liberty. He founded Providence, Rhode Island, where he proclaimed "that no man should be molested for his conscience." He was not Unitarian, but encouraged Unitarians to search for freedom of religious belief and practice.

1822: Samuel Johnson, Unitarian minister, was born. His congregation was notable for having "equal seating" and voluntary donations, rather than pew purchasing.

1858: Charles Potter was born. He served on the defense team with Clarence Darrow in the Scopes trial concerning evolution, which pitted religious fundamentalists against religious liberals in Tennessee. In 1929, Potter founded the Euthanasia Society of America.

1868: Henry Briggs died. He was a wealthy businessman in England, who transformed his colliery into a cooperative, providing shares to his workers and customers, which paved the way for employee ownership of the colliery.

(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!)

