

the Outlook

September 2011
Volume 16
Issue 9

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.



Ministerial Musings

During my years in ministry, I have been greatly enriched by the writing of Unitarian Universalist minister Rev. Dr. Richard Gilbert. And I recently came across one of his meditations that I had forgotten. So I would like to share it in my column this month as an inspiration for our new church year. It is called "Loneliness and Love."

"Loneliness is our common fate. There is no escape.
But out of that loneliness comes our salvation,
For we love out of our fear of being alone.
As long as human beings people the earth,
We can be assured that in our loneliness
There is also love – deep, infinite love,
Waiting to be tapped, to water the barren,
Brown lawn of our loneliness – love that shrivels
If kept to the self, that flourishes if it is given away.
I need you. You need me. I know it.
You know it. What are we waiting for?"

It seems to me that this reading speaks to the need that we all have for a sense of deep connection with each other and our fear that we will not find it or that we will lose it. But my hope is that we will discover increasing ways in our lives, in our congregation, and in the larger world to heal that loneliness and to realize the myriad possibilities for a giving and receiving love. We need each other to be complete. I know it. You know it. May we find the ways to speak and listen each other into wholeness in the year ahead. What are we waiting for? Let us begin once more.

Blessings, Rev. Betty

**Unitarian Universalist Church
of the
Verdugo Hills**

**4451 Dunsmore Avenue
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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

Dear Friends,

Our new sound system is wonderful! We thank Paula Hallowell for the time and energy she spent pinpointing our sound needs and finding the right people to do the installation.

Now, I would like to see our congregation move forward on the many improvements needed in our Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, and kitchen. To fulfill our hopes and dreams regarding our building we need an infusion of funds. Here is one possible avenue to gain funds:

When 20% of our members become Chalice Lighters (see below) we will apply for a grant. Many, perhaps all, of the UU churches in our Cluster, except UUCVH, have received grants from Chalice Lighters.

Why didn't UUCVH get a grant? We did not get a grant because our congregation did not meet the 20% quota of Chalice Lighter members... we are not eligible to apply until 20% of our membership become Chalice Lighters.

More about Chalice Lighters

Chalice Lighters of the Pacific Southwest District is designed to provide grants to Unitarian Universalist churches for the purpose of facility improvement, training programs, and other specific uses. I focus on facility improvement here because I see this as an important issue for UUCVH. Since 1977, Chalice Lighters have awarded grants to 23 congregations in the Pacific Southwest District including the UU churches in our cluster and to Neighborhood Church in Pasadena.

I know that some of you are Chalice Lighters. I am a Chalice Lighter. I hope you will join us. This is what a member must do to join:

- *Fill out the enclosed membership form and mail it off to the address printed on the form.
- *Three times a year, the PSWD will send a letter requesting a donation of at least \$20.00. Of course you may send more—whatever is comfortable for your budget.

Please consider this information. Please act on it. Your Chalice Lighter membership may be the one which will make us eligible for a grant.

We are a remarkable church . . . because each of you is a remarkable person.

I send my best wishes.
Ann Miller Rillo

It is with great regret we say good-bye to our remarkable pianist, Jason McNally. He has been given a position as Music Director and organist in a large church in Long Beach. His music has enriched our services. We will miss him . . . and we wish him well on his new assignment.
AMR



Time to Register or Re-register

Attention Ralphs Grocery Shoppers! Every September is annual renewal time. Contribute to our Unitarian Universalist Church of the Verdugo Hills (UUCVH) every time you go shopping at Ralph's market. As part of their program to give back to the community, Ralphs contributes up to 4% of your household monthly purchases back to UUCVH. All you have to do is designate UUCVH as your non-profit organization of choice.

Here's how to sign up or renew:

1. Go to <http://www.ralphs.com/> and either sign up or register for your account
 2. Be sure to have your Ralphs Rewards card handy
 3. Click on Services > Community Contributions > Enroll
 4. Enter in UUCVH's organization code 83364
- If you do not yet have a Ralphs Reward card, they are available for free at the customer service desk at any Ralph's location.
 - Do you use your phone number at the register? Call 800-660-9003 to get your Rewards Card number and set up UUCVH as your community organization.
 - Members must swipe their registered Ralphs Reward card or use the phone number that is linked to their registered Ralphs Reward card when shopping for each purchase to count.

This Month in UU History

1638: John Harvard died at the age of 31. He left numerous books and some money to a new college in Newtowne, Massachusetts. The school was then renamed in his honor, and the town's name changed to Cambridge. Harvard College became a center of Unitarian intellectualism and the dominant training ground for Unitarian ministry.

1770: John Murray, an émigré from England, preached his first Universalist sermon in America when his boat ran aground at Cranberry Inlet, New Jersey. There he met Thomas Potter, who had been waiting for God to send him a preacher with a message of universal salvation. This occasion is often used to mark the beginning of Universalism in America.

1810: Mary Gaskell was born in England. Her novel *Mary Barton* told of the hard life of factory workers. She also wrote books of social criticism, covering topics like illicit love and illegitimacy in her novel *Ruth*.

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!

UUCVH Board Meeting Draft

August 17, 2011

Present: President Ann Rillo, Treasurer Deane Phinney, Trustees Gary Clark, Pat Berberian, Minister Rev. Betty Stapleford, Acting Secretary Cleo Rogers, Church Member Teresa Carson-Jones.

Absent: Vice President Howard Richman, Trustee Paula Hallowell,

President Ann Rillo called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Members checked in and the chalice was lit. The minutes for the meeting of July 21, 2011 were approved with one correction. Gary Clark is not a member of the Religious Education Committee.

Treasurer: Deane Phinney distributed the financial statement dated August 17, 2011. She suggested that committee chairs be made aware of their budgets in order to avoid over spending. The report will be filed for review.

Minister Report: Rev. Betty reported on her August 1 meeting with younger members of the church and spoke of their enthusiasm. Future meetings are planned. She mentioned her other activities including meeting with the Worship Oversight Committee, writing columns for two local papers, telephoning persons listed in our directory as Friends, becoming part of the Sheriff's Support Group, and involvement with the Burbank Ministerial Association.

Finance Committee: Gary Clark reported that Alan Kleinsasser is willing to continue as Finance Committee chair. They are still looking for a committee member who, according to bylaw requirements, is not also a board member.

Property Management/Facilities – Ann Rillo read Paula Hallowell's report on church improvements. A quote of \$827 for adding the capacity to produce CDs to our sound system has been received. Rev Betty and Tom Stapleford have offered a donation of \$500 toward this expense. MSC: Paula should move ahead to add this feature.

Deane Phinney suggested that we pursue a grant from Chalice Lighters in order to continue making improvements to our facilities that would be more welcoming to visitors and satisfying for our use. This would involve writing the grant and determining that 20% of our members are active Chalice Lighters. Ann Rillo will ask a member to write the grant.

Religious Education - Teresa Jones reported that the Religious Education committee is in transition but continues to meet. Teresa indicated her willingness to chair the committee. MSC: that she be accepted as chair.

Church Rental: Deane read a letter from *Much Ado About Shakespeare* asking about the possibility of renting the Fellowship Hall on Sunday afternoons at the same rate that they previously paid. Although the amount is less than or current rental policy prescribes, it was decided that this could be allowed through a grandfathering condition. MSC: to grant the rental request as long as other conditions protecting the church are met.

Church Website: Teresa Jones described how the website benefits the church. She was named Senior Website Manager. Teresa described how donations and pledge payments could be accepted through our website. There would be no setup costs and no annual fees but the company would retain 3% of any payments received. MSC: that Teresa add this to our website after further research to insure that the church is protected.

Piano Accompanist: Ann Rillo reported that Jason has submitted his resignation as piano accompanist as of August 28 as he has accepted a full time position.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cleo Rogers, Acting Secretary

Movie Night

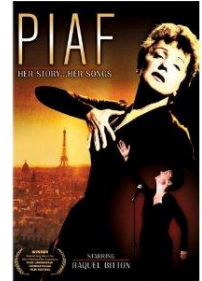
Paula Hallowell, Director

NEW DAYS!

Wednesday, September 7th at 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.



NEXT MONTH’S MOVIE

Thursday, October 20th at 7:00 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.

Worship Service Workshop

Sunday, September 18, 2011 1 to 4 pm

Have you been thinking about a service you would like to produce for one of the Sunday mornings when Rev. Betty is not in the pulpit? There are a number of opportunities remaining for the coming year. With that in mind, Rev. Betty will be facilitating a workshop at UUCVH for those in our congregation who would like to learn the ropes for creating a service as well as for experienced organizers/presenters who would like to fine-tune their skills. If you are in either of those groups and would like to attend or get further information, please contact Rev. Betty ASAP at bstaple4d@aol.com or 805-630-8117. She looks forward to hearing from you!

CLICK ON OVER TO OUR WEBSITE!

www.uuverdugo.org

Have fun exploring what UUCVH has to offer including our interactive “Calendar” with the latest news & updates on all things UU! Email your suggestions on our website’s “Contact Us” page. Or, email our Webmistress Teresa at: terresa.uucvh@gmail.com

Social Action Circle

In late August, two very important events occurred. I can't tell you how successful both events were because this is being written before they occurred to meet the deadline for submission. Both of these events benefitted PATH Achieve Glendale. First a few words about PATH:

PATH is an acronym for People Assisting the Homeless. They have several shelters around the county. The one in Glendale is one of the smallest. Here they have room for forty residents. All the residents sleep in one large room. (Of course, there is attentive security to make sure nothing improper happens, and there is zero tolerance for any such behavior.) PATH offers drug and alcohol counseling, parenting classes, psychological therapy, and has access to any other programs that are needed by the residents.

Some residents may qualify for transitional housing when they leave PATH. For up to two years, qualified folks can live in an apartment that has been leased by the shelter by paying a reduced rate of rent. This allows them to save some money and become self-sufficient and move out on their own.

The two events that UUCVH had at the end of August were to support the move into transitional housing and to feed the ones still in residence there.

As you know, we have been supplying move-in baskets of kitchen and bathroom items to those moving into transitional housing for quite a few years. The Social Action Circle (SAC) is now adding to those baskets a \$50 grocery gift card to further help them in getting started. To fund those gift cards, SAC will periodically host a Texas Hold 'em night at the church. This began on August 27. We hope to have this as a regular event to help the ones in need.

The second event is our participation in what PATH refers to as the Guest Chef Program. Churches and other organizations in the area are responsible for one night a month in providing the evening meal. Since our funds are small, we serve only when there are five Mondays in a month. We buy the food and other supplies for the meal, prepare the meal at the church, and take it to the shelter. We serve the residents and sit down and enjoy the meal with them. You've never seen a more appreciative group of folks.

There is also a current drive to acquire donations of furniture for those going into transitional housing. If you have any gently used furniture you can donate, see Jerry Buchanan.

For more information on how you can help PATH Achieve Glendale as an individual, go to www.achieveglendale.org, or again, see Jerry.

Please note: The pharmacy of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is no longer accepting medicine bottles for reuse. Therefore we will not be collecting them anymore. Please be sure to recycle them with the rest of your recyclables or, perhaps, you can reuse them to hold buttons or nails or screws or anything else of similar size. Thank you all for being so generous with the hundreds of bottles we have collected over the past year.

Jerry Buchanan, *Chair Social Action Circle*



Cluster Weekend
Friday to Sunday
October 14, 15 and 16, 2011
Camp de Benneville Pines

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. 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.



CHARLIE AND JANET

On Sunday, July 31st we said a reluctant farewell to long time members, the Weymanns, with an Ice Cream Social after the service. Several flavors of ice cream, different kinds of toppings and root beer floats were served. Charlie and Janet have moved to Templeton, California, where they will be close to their daughter in nearby Atascadero. We wish them much happiness in their new home!



A NOTE FROM JAN

A huge thanks to all of you for the Ice Cream Social after church today. It gave Charlie and me a great opportunity to say goodbye as we resign our membership and move away. This church has been an important part of our lives for 50 years, beginning in the 1960s when it was a Fellowship. It is hard to leave. To loosely quote from Garrison Keillor (and Howard Richman) we hope that the church and each of you individually stay well, do good work, and keep in touch.

Love,
Jan Weymann

Note: The Weymann's new address is on file in the UUCVH office.



PICNIC AT THE STAPLEFORDS

After the service on Sunday, August 14th, Tom and Rev. Betty hosted a potluck picnic on the patio of their lovely home in Thousand Oaks. After a meal of many tasty offerings, they gave us a tour of the house and showed us their four beautiful Bengal cats.



Ingathering Sunday September 11th, 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.

A Month of Sundays

September Service Information

September 4

“Labor and Liberation”, Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford

On this Sunday before Labor Day, we will be looking at the subject of labor in both its historical and modern context. Current unemployment figures may leave us with a sense of foreboding, and the days when lifetime job security seemed to be guaranteed are certainly a thing of the past. But there may be hope for us, if we join together to support those in need and ourselves in ways that provide us with courage for the days and years ahead.

September 11

“Gathering the Waters of Remembrance”, Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford

At our Ingathering Service we will be bringing and pouring together samples of water from our summers, at home or away, and sharing short descriptions of their significance for us. Come and welcome new and old friends as we begin a new church year together. In addition, this year we will honor the memory of those who lost their lives on this significant date ten years ago in the destruction of the Twin Towers and the Pentagon.

September 18

“Unitarian Women – Unitarian Saints?”, Mary Teague, *Lay Leader*

The stereotype that women are only interested in the softer, emotional side of life is mistaken. There have been many Unitarian women that have a history of service and commitment.

September 25

“Post Hoc, Ergo Propter Hoc”, James Underdown, *Guest Speaker*, Exec. Dir. Center for Inquiry. L.A.
Translation: “After this, because of this”. Human beings are hard wired to see events as having causal relationships. We have for millennia mistaken what happened first as being the cause of what happens second. Of such events are superstitions born. Why do people continue to make this error? And is it always an error?



Getting To Know UU

On September 11, Rev. Betty will be facilitating a session, 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 or 805-630-8117, or you can leave a message for her at the UUCVH office number - 818-248-3954.



UU Minister's Retreat

Rev. Betty will be at a UU Ministers' Retreat in Rancho Palos Verdes from September 26 to 28, 2011, but you can call the UUCVH office at 818-248-3954 for information. If you need immediate, personal attention, please call her on her cell phone – 805-630-8117.

Save the date!

- Every Friday Watercolor Class at Manon's -- 10 am
- Sunday, Sept. 4 Salad Luncheon -- noon
- Monday, Sept. 5 Labor Day, Knitting Circle -- 7:00 pm
- Wed., Sept. 7 Movie Night "Piaf: Her Story, Her Songs" 7:00pm
- Sunday, Sept. 11 Ingathering and Water Ceremony
Getting to Know UU Session -- 12:30 pm
- Monday, Sept. 12 Membership Committee-- 7:30 pm
- Wed., Sept. 14 Women's Potluck Luncheon -- 11:30 am
- Sunday, Sept. 18 Early Coffee and Goodies -- 9:30am
Social Action Circle -- noon
Worship Service Workshop -- 1:00 pm
- Monday, Sept. 19 Women's Potluck Dinner -- 6 pm
- Tuesday, Sept. 20 Outlook Deadline
- Wed., Sept. 21 Board Meeting -- 6:00 pm

Caution: Dates on Calendar May Be Closer Than They Appear

- Wed., October 26 Valley Vespers -- 7:30 pm
- Mon., October 31 Halloween, Guest Chef Prep. 2:30 pm & Serve 6:00 pm

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