

# Sunday Services, November 2023



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST COMMUNITY  
OF THE VERDUGO HILLS  
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**November 5—Discussion Sunday: Why Church?**  
Moderated by **Ann Kleinsasser**

What does "church" mean? Sunday morning...involvement in the larger community...spiritual fulfillment...working for social justice...commitment to common values...good coffee??? We each bring our own ideas about religion and spirituality, but what do we have in common? What is most important to you about being part of this church?

**November 12—Coyotes Among Us**  
with **Dana Stangel** of **Teranga Ranch**

Join Wildlife Educator Dana Stangel of Teranga Ranch as we learn more about our coyote neighbors. Do you have questions about coyotes? Have you been concerned about the way they look at you? Do you remember experiencing them while you were growing up? Will your fence keep them out? Do you wonder why they yip in unison? We'll explore the natural history of the urban coyote and we'll talk about the current situation regarding coyotes, pets and backyards. We'll also demonstrate various humane hazing techniques and we'll have some backyard wildlife deterrents on hand for show and tell.

**November 19—Tenants' Rights And the Growing Eviction Crisis in the Foothills**  
with **Tenants Action**

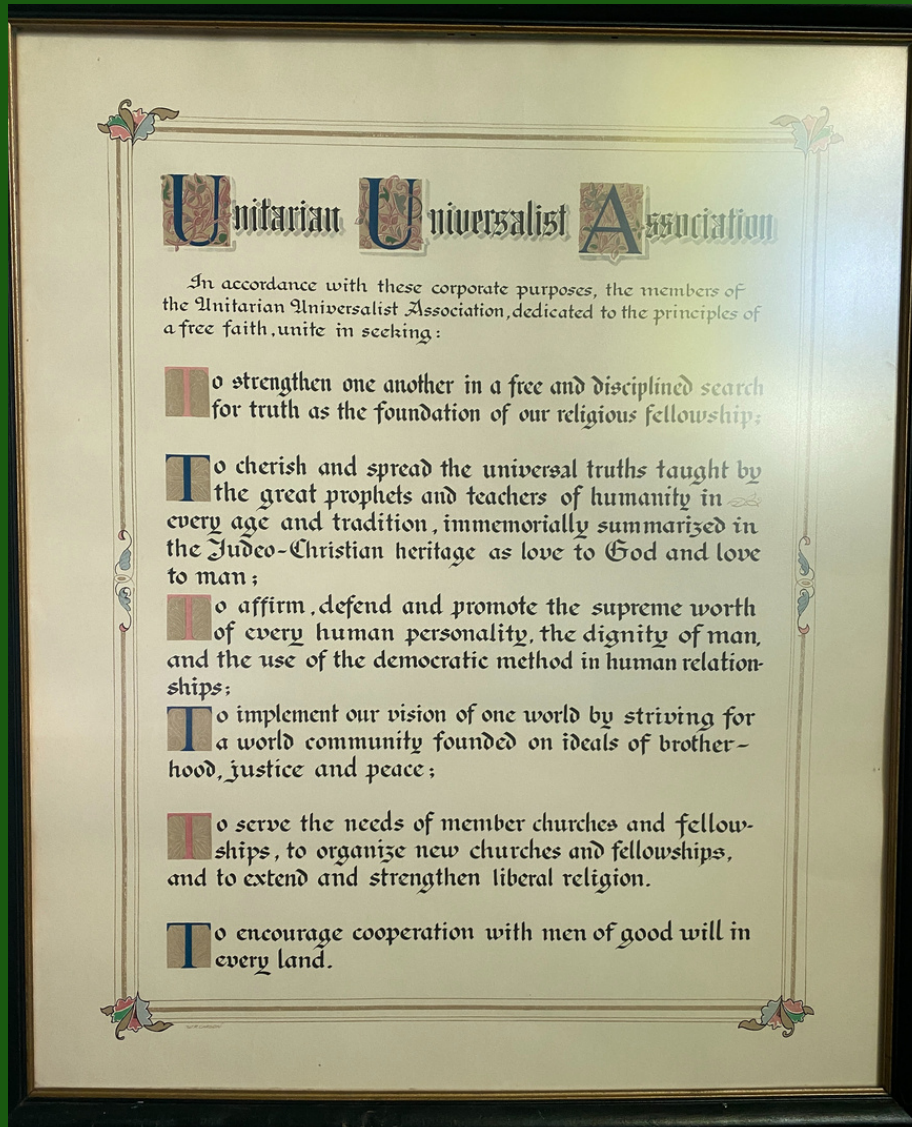
With COVID Eviction Protections are over, millions of tenants (thousands of them in the LA area, including Glendale, La Crescenta, and La Canada) are facing eviction and homelessness due to economic recovery not coming fast enough. Educate yourself on your rights and learn from experts how tenants and landlords can recover together.

**November 26—Leonard Cohen Goes to Church**  
with **Marty Barrett**

Immersed in the scholarship of many religions and spiritual practices, the late Leonard Cohen, like many great artists, drew from the sacred to create worldly masterpieces. As we saunter into the holiday season, learn about L. Cohen's faith and why it is always kinda funny to hear "Hallelujah" in church.

# Outreach & Sunday Services: Marty Barrett

Hello All,



There's a framed document in my office depicting (in stately script) the six original principles of the newly-merged Unitarian Universalist Association from 1961. Those familiar with the current slate of seven principles will recognize a lot in these founding words and might be interested in how the principles have been re-worded and repositioned in the short span of six decades. In addition, some principles have been jettisoned and others have been added.

Gone, for example, are references to God, to religion, to "man," and to "Judeo-Christian heritage," though the great works of sacred scripture remain part of the UUA's sources. A notable addition to our current principles is the prevalence of the word "spirituality."

Similarly, in the founding documents of what became UUVerdugo, written in February, 1964 (we are not sure of the exact date but I like to think they were written right after the Beatles appeared on Ed Sullivan) are similar references to a religious community, in addition to goals of education and community service.

While we certainly talk about god at UUVerdugo services, it's not exclusively the Judeo-Christian one, and our offerings over the last decade or so have expanded to the "interconnected web" of arts, science, and, yes, spirituality. I think UUVerdugo's ancestors would recognize who we are now, even if they would have difficulty with bluetooth technology and perhaps puzzle over the inclusion of reiki, "Game of Thrones," coyote management, and vulva puppets in our Sunday services.

# Outreach & Sunday Services: Marty Barrett



I'm writing this on Halloween night. In two days it will be Dia de los Muertos, the Day of the Dead celebration beloved of Mexicans and, by association, Angelenos. For the past several years we have gathered around our own simple *ofrenda* to share stories about the people (and pets) we remember fondly.

But, like our own UU principles and indeed the mission and practices of this community/church/spiritual home/"safe space"/what have you, even Dia de los Muertos traditions have evolved and adapted in just the past century.

The prominence of the "Elegant Skull," or Calavera Catrina, was borrowed for Dia de los Muertos celebrations in the 1900s. Mexican artist Jorge Posada in 1910 depicted rich and poor alike as skeletons, or would lampoon upper-class Mexican ladies affecting the fashions of Europe.

I'm only speaking for myself, but I think Posada's elegant lady, above, looks a lot like our own late, beloved Edith Young. I can see her in a hat like that.

So as we start this month of thought-provoking services, calls to service, and gratitude (starting with November 5th's discussion, moderated by Ann Kleinsassert, of "Why Church?"), consider that, while change can be scary, evolution is necessary, and there was no such thing as evolution in that aforementioned Judeo-Christian heritage, but evolve we did!

Please pay attention to Madeline's Social Justice opportunities later in this newsletter and, in addition to joining us for a month of great services, consider also Liz Conejo's "Flauta y Guitarra" recital on November 12 as well as a screening of the wonderful "Amelie" on the 15th.

Please note that we skip the Verdugo HUUT in November but we'll be back with all sorts of cool arts and community programs in December.

Your Obedient Servant,  
Marty Barrett, Director of Outreach & Sunday Services

# From the Board President

Hello everyone!

I love the fall season with all its holidays. They follow the whole circle of life. First, we have Dia de los Muertos where we celebrate by remembering those that came before in the Ofrenda. Then at Thanksgiving we celebrate the bounty of the harvest, and we acknowledge the interconnectedness of us all in bringing in that bounty. During December we have the renewing of hope and light with Christmas, Kwanzaa, and Hanukkah. These next months of holiday gatherings provide us with occasions to reflect on who we are as an interconnected community of beings. I love them all!

On a similar theme of cycles and renewal, we are taking this opportunity to take a fresh look at our facilities and how we use them. Do they reflect who we are as a community currently as we have had several changes in our community and the world as a whole. Board member and Aesthetics committee chair, Linda Hunt will be hosting a discussion session after the Sunday service on November 26.

Some things to think about. How does this building provide a space for us to come together as a community in fellowship? How does it support our prayer of service? Maybe a better donation staging space? Maybe we need a community arts and crafts room? Please come and bring your insights into how we might restructure and refresh the facilities so they are more welcoming and nourishing for all of us. I hope you are enjoying the new solar lights that help keep our parking lot safe. .  
Wishing you a bountiful Thanksgiving.

In Fellowship,

Mary, UUCVH President

# Social Justice



**Organic Garden Team: Our plot at the Howard Finn Community Garden: Thanks to Patriciaa and her mighty team for planting winter veggies. Contact Patriciaa for more detail and how you can help.**

**Making It Happen Mondays : Please bring non-perishable food as well as clean, bagged clothes and leave in boxes at back of sanctuary. Pickups every final Monday at 11 a.m.**

**2nd Friday Ascencia Shelter Cooking: Our Chef Howard is retiring and we need a few volunteers to take over the shopping and cooking and deliver a meal for 45 residents to the shelter on 2nd Fridays. Please let me know if you are interested in continuing the program.**

**Recycle bottles and cans: Underneath the tables in the kitchen. Proceeds go to Social Justice.**

# Social Justice



**Social Justice Committee Letter Writing:** We completed October with over 500 letters mailed to voters in Virginia to provide voting information and highlight important issues. Thanks to all who wrote, stuffed, stamped and donated!

**Thanksgiving and the Winter Holidays**

We are working with our partner organization " Making It Happen" with the following activities. Please note the dates and deadlines. We're hoping all can participate in these worthy and fun projects

## **THANKSGIVING**

**!00 Turkey Dinners are being donated by MIH and friends:And a Prepared Dinner will served for those in need on Thursday November 23, Thanksgiving Day at the MIH property. There is more than one way you can help: You may contribute with a cash donation: Charity Organization | Making It Happen Inc | Sunland, CA**

# Social Justice

**AND/OR:** You may prepare a dish to be served at the Making it Happen Center. Please plan to deliver your dish to UUVerdugo no later than 2 pm on Wednesday November 22. These three items are needed: green beans or casserole, rolls and butter, cranberries in any form (cooked). Your offering may be refrigerated or frozen as need be but should be fully cooked. Please let me know what you are bringing. We need volunteers to deliver the food to MIH on Wednesday 11/22. afternoon.

## **Holiday Gifts for Family Celebration:**

- 1. You may ADOPT and SHOP:** Each \$125 sponsors one child. If you wish to adopt a whole family, you may request one: the families may be anywhere from 3- 5 members. We'll obtain a list from MIH and so you may purchase the gifts they specify You may deliver the gifts to UUVerdugo OR deliver them yourself to MIH. Gifts must be delivered to UUVerdugo (unwrapped) by Friday December 1.
- 1. You may also donate money for a family via the MIH website.**
- 2. You may adopt one child for \$125 and purchase the gifts yourself or you may donate money to MIH as you wish.**
- 3. If you would like to help with gift wrapping please plan to attend a gift wrap party on December 4th from 6:30- 8:30 pm at MIH location.**

**Respectfully submitted,  
—Madeline Dow, SJ Chair**



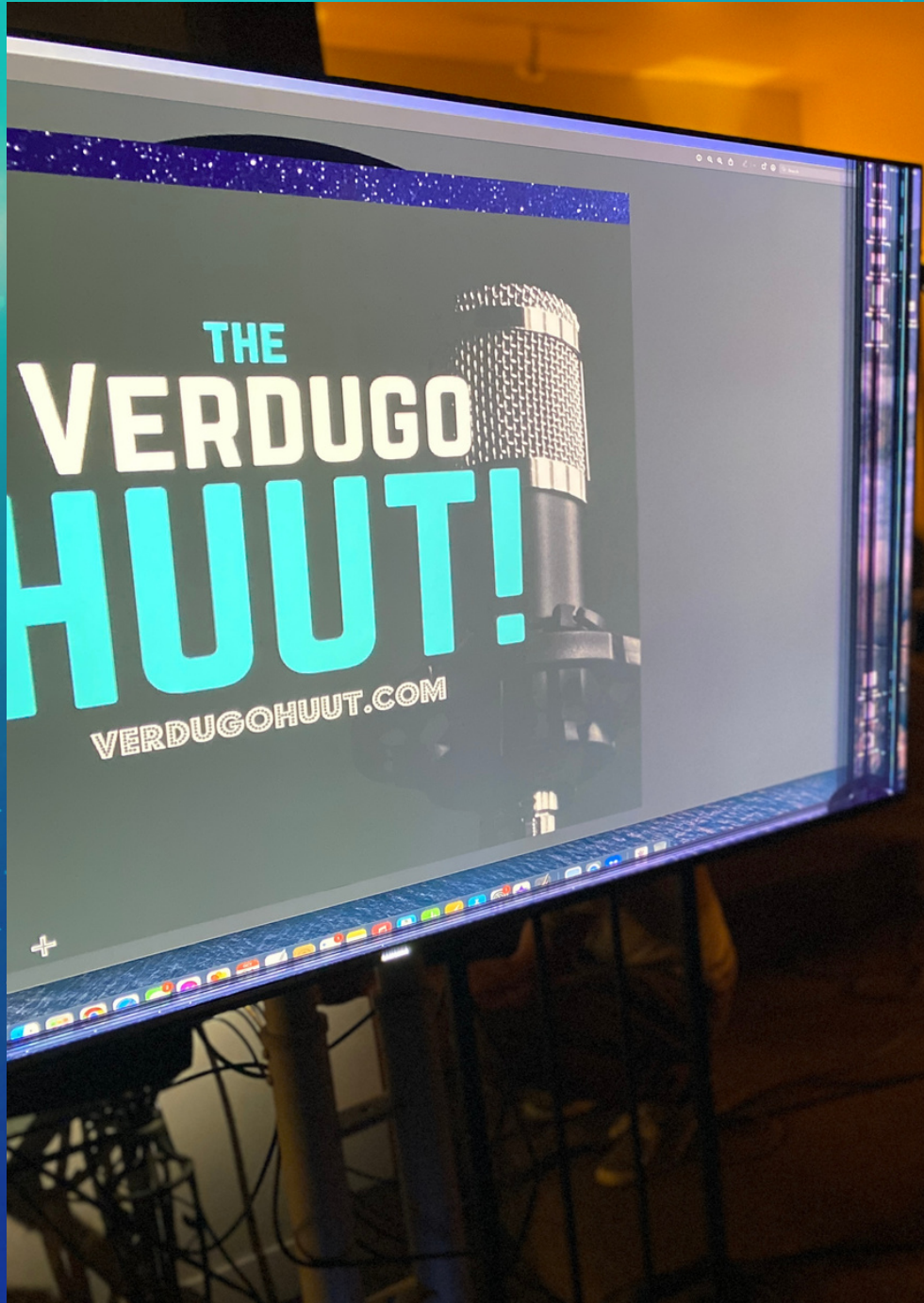
# NOVEMBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>SUNDAY SERVICE ZOOM ID: 863 6623 2290 PASSWORD: 338258</b>		1	2	3	4
<b>DISCUSSION SUNDAY FRIENDSHIP HALL &amp; POTLUCK</b>					<b>ASCENCIA PREP 2-6</b>	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<b>SUNDAY SERVICE 10:30</b>  <b>Liz Conejo Flauta Fest - 2 p.m.</b>			<b>MOVIE NIGHT! AMELIE 6:00/\$5 DONATION</b>		<b>THIRD FRIDAY POTLUCK-NOON</b>	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<b>SUNDAY SERVICE 10:30</b>  <b>BOARD MTG. 12:30</b>						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<b>SUNDAY SERVICE 10:30</b>	<b>MAKING IT HAPPEN MONDAY (FOOD/CLOTHING DONATIONS)</b>  <b>NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS DUE</b>				<b>NOTE: PRIVATE RENTALS ARE NOT LISTED ON THIS CALENDAR. CHECK W. MARTY FOR AVAILABILITY.</b>	
26	27	28	29	30		





**DIA DE LOS MUERTOS OFRENDA  
SERVICE**



**A SPOOKY VERDUGO HUUT!**



**THE SCANDALOUS KIM AIRS!**

YOUR VERDUGO HUUT PRESENTS

# huutactually

AN  
EVENING  
OF  
ORIGINAL  
HOLIDAY  
SONGS

DECEMBER  
2  
THE FINAL  
HUUT OF  
THE YEAR!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2 AT 7 P.M. | THE SANCTUARY AT UOVERDUGO  
4451 DUNSMORE AVE., GLENDALE 91214  
VERDUGOHUUT.COM | \$15/GENERAL | \$10/STUDENTS & SENIORS

