

Sunday Services, March 2023



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March 5—Picking Up the Pieces: A Kintsugi Service
Speaker: Marty Barrett

"There is a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in," said Leonard Cohen. Join us on a round-the-world tour of the Japanese practice of Kintsugi, the process of filling fractures in ceramics and pottery with liquid gold or silver. You can even call it "building back better" if you like, but remember: it's not how you fall, it's how you get back up.

March 12—Why Are "U" A UU?
A Congregant-Led Service

This "evergreen" service, repeated at UUVerdugo for 10,000 years, delights potential new members and longtime congregants alike with heartfelt, practical, and sometimes poignant stories of how we got here.

March 19—Potluck por Vida
Guest Speaker: Mary-Jo Uniack

As UUVerdugo prepares to resume its traditional Friendship Dinners, where members go to each other's houses to eat their food and use their good towels, Mary-Jo Uniack shares an ongoing story about her own grand-scale potlucks and the healing, fun, and community-building they represent.

March 26—Living the Medicine Wheel
Guest Speaker: Dr. Ana Luna

Dr. Luna will invite the energies of the sacred directions to assist us in connecting with the living breathing elements that are all around us. When we honor those who came before us and acknowledge the energies of the land, our prayer comes to life and we reconnect with our sacred nature as stewards of the land.



MARCH 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5 SUNDAY SERVICE—10:30 POTLUCK! NOON	6	7	8	9	10 ASCENCIA FOOD PREP BAILEY FOOD DROPOFF 2-6	11
12 SUNDAY SERVICE—10:30	13	14	15	16	17 3RD FRIDAY POTLUCK! NOON	18 VERDUGO HUUT! 7 P.M.
19 SUNDAY SERVICE—10:30 PLANTSWAP 2 P.M.	20	21	22 MOVIE NIGHT! "HAROLD & MAUDE" 6:00	23	24	25 FRIENDSHIP DINNER 6:00
26 SUNDAY SERVICE—10:30 REIKI W. MARY 1 P.M./\$10	27 NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE	28	29	30	31	

ZOOM SERVICE MEETING ROOM: 897 9181 4237 // PASSWORD: 935066

NOTE: THESE ARE PUBLIC EVENTS. PRIVATE RENTALS OR CHURCH-ONLY EVENTS ARE NOT LISTED ON THIS CALENDAR.

All the UUs
that's fit to
print.

from the Board President

Greetings Everyone,

Writing this is one of the hardest things to do in this job. This might be a bit boring of a column. I have noticed some things over the years and I thought I would talk about them.

Did you know we can fit six cars—possibly eight (one may have to be a smart car)—in our parking lot? Years ago I was looking at Google maps of our building. Jeanne Akerley's car was in the lot. I copy-pasted into several positions. Nobody parks like my Photoshop picture.

I have seen interesting maneuvers to get out of the parking lot. I have painted red strips on our driveway apron. When I back out, I point my front end towards the pomegranate tree/southernmost window of the sanctuary. I check my side mirrors for the red stripes on the apron. When I see them I know it's safe and I won't drive off the curb or run into the signpost. The city has been good about replacing the bent signpost. We have not had anyone run into it in a long time.

We have something to look forward to. The last Saturday of this month (March 25) is Friendship Dinner. I enjoy the review of dinner during our Joys and Sorrows time after service. We know how to have fun!

—Paula Hallowell

Social Justice And Nominating

REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

Thanks to all of our members and friends for your abundant generosity.

We have blankets, towels, warm clothing, jackets, sweaters, and socks plus a large cash donation to give to the Refugee/ Asylum Shelter in Baldwin Park. We also donated food bank items to the Shelter's local food bank which serves refugees in the area. Paula Hallowell, Linda Hunt, and I delivered the donations and met with the Pastor Tona who is also the community coordinator. We learned a great deal about the asylum process and the challenges of refugees not only from our southern border, but also Russia and elsewhere. I will give a more thorough report on Sunday, March 5.

For the family of four (two adults and children ages 3 and 6) in Van Nuys who are seeking asylum from persecution in Colombia, we have bedding, a small tv and antenna, microwave, toaster oven and cookware.

ASCENCIA HOMELESS SHELTER

Volunteers needed second Friday afternoon of every month to help with cooking at UUVerdugo, and serving the dinner at the shelter in Glendale. Contact Howard at hwrichman@yahoo.com.

Assembling hygiene packets: On Friday, March 24 at 1:00 pm we will assemble packets. The packets are to be donated for distribution to the homeless by Ascencia outreach workers. We'll gather at Friendship Hall for assembly, snacks, and chats. All are welcome!

BAILEY FOOD BANK

Please your non-perishable and empty cardboard egg cartons in the Sanctuary. We need a volunteer for this month to drop non-perishables donations at Bailey Food Bank in Tujunga. Contact Christine at uucvh@uuverdugo.org



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Social Justice And Nominating cont'd

UUTHEVOTE

We were able to meet with one of our enthusiastic team leaders in Ventura. They are ready and waiting for our next post card/letter writing effort to get out the vote! We are hoping for a future UUTHEVOTE grant from UUA/Spirit Level.

CDC, STATE, AND COUNTY GUIDELINES

We maintain our mask-wearing protocol, distancing, and ventilation practices. Indoor temps may vary. Please dress accordingly. Please practice handwashing, use sanitizers, ventilate, and distance when possible. These are state and federal guidelines based on safe practice.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MARCH

Please let me know if you have interest in serving on our UUVerdugo board for community year July 2023-June 2024. Thank you. arpeggiata@yahoo.com

—Madeline Dow, Social Justice & Nominating Committees chair



Outreach & Sunday Services

Hey Pals,

Thank you for your increased attendance and participation at our weekly services as well as other public events. I was particularly well-educated by a presentation on the history of the Pride Flag as well as our "evergreen" service (which goes by many names), "Last Night A DJ Saved My Life," in which congregants and friends Mary Madill, Heidi Mastrogiovanni, and Tom Bishel shared stories about the songs that were significant to them.) Our 5th anniversary HUUT had its biggest audience yet, both in-person and online. Thanks to all the returning and debuting performers. On March 18 the HUUT presents "The Banshees of Unincorporated La Crescenta." I am proud of this title. I hope people show up. No donkeys will be harmed.

The Urban Homeschoolers have done an excellent job beginning to transform the side yard, unused for these many years. We are grateful for their energy and the jubilant shrieks of student and teacher alike.

As I'm always looking to make things more streamlined and efficient here—the better to increase our congregation size and to serve the needs of the people here already—I've been thinking about a rotating board presidency and decreased Board size (from six to five members) to limit burnout, provide a tiebreaking vote, and to increase Board agility and effectiveness. This requires a change to the bylaws. Luckily, a recent deep dive into the bylaws reveals that they need to be overhauled to reflect current realities and practices anyway, or realities and practices need to get in line with the bylaws, or both! As we make our way to UUVerdugo's annual meeting in June, signaling the end of one "church year" and the beginning of another, a number of proposals will be advanced for Board of Trustees reorganization (or it could stay the same). For this and other reasons, I urge congregants to look at the latest (2019) revision of the bylaws, as careful scrutiny of that document is necessary to both make informed choices and to navigate the sometimes-confusing process of petitioning and publication.

—Marty Barrett

Stewardship

At its heart, stewardship tends to boil down to the act of watching, overseeing, and managing ourselves on the behalf of another. The dictionary explains it as “the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care.” Let's move forward in stewardship together! Next month we will be looking forward to our annual financial renewal to our church and its mission!

—Linda Hunt for the Stewardship Committee

LINDA CHATS WITH A ZOOM ATTENDEE AT COFFEE HOUR



THE CRESCENTA VALLEY FROM ATOP MT. MCGROARTY
FEBRUARY 26



TOM BISHEL IN THE "LAST NIGHT A DJ SAVED MY
LIFE" SERVICE
FEBRUARY 26



VAMPYR 79 AT THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY VERDUGO HUUT
FEBRUARY 18

