

# Social Justice: Madeline Dow

UU the Vote Postcarding

Each month, friends of UUVerdugo send hundreds of letters and postcards to voters and potential voters in different states to raise awareness, enfranchisement, and participation. Stationery, postage, and a simple script are provided. Postcarding can be done individually or in a convivial group. The next sessions are Friday, October 7 at 1:30 in Friendship Hall and Tuesday, October 11 at 2 p.m. at the home of Madeline Dow. Please RSVP to Madeline via arpeggiata@yahoo.com.

- Postcards and letters to MI, WI, TX, CA, AZ, VA and PA. to over 8,000 voters! : encouraging them to register to vote, where, when, and how. Giving them deadlines and details on voting in the primaries, and now, "PLEASE VOTE AND Remind YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY,"-type messages to the above states.
- 7,000 and rising, handwritten, decorated postcards
- More than 1000 letters
- Nearly 100 texts and phone calls
- I had hoped to have 25 writers but as of today we have nearly 50! and growing. NEW FOLKS STILL JOINING
- As of the end of this week we will have spent \$8,089 of the original grant of \$8,400, ( including our donations and UUTHEVOTESPIRIT Fund \$6,400.) We have \$311 remaining.
- We plan to continue our campaign through the Nov. 8 election and perhaps for any runoff elections after the 8th. We have also had donations of over \$200 in postcards which of course are not counted in our own donations. We pre-purchase stamps before the postcards rate went up which also saved us money. We re-cycle all paper and envelopes for mailing etc to save on costs. When travel is involved we combine trips and stops to save on fuel.
- We have raised a total of new money \$655.00 and have requested a 3 x match for UU Spirit folks. We are told we will be getting a check for \$2620.00

**Ascencia:** Howard Richman prepares delicious meals with a rotating cast of sous chefs for this Glendale homeless shelter. Volunteers needed for preparing at UUVerdugo and serving at Ascencia. Usually one group prepares the food and another picks it up, drives it to Ascencia, and serves it. Next outing: October 14. Contact Howard via hwrhman@yahoo.com.

**Clothing Drive:** UUVerdugo in partnership with St. James Church of La Crescenta. Please bring items to Friendship Hall by Oct 30. Proceeds to St Vincent de Paul Society. Christine will deliver with help.

**Bailey Food Bank** had a good haul this month. Donations please by Friday 10/14. We need a volunteer to drop off food at Bailey's location on Tujunga Canyon Blvd. We will also accept donations after Sunday services.

**Afghan Refugees:** We have sponsored a number of refugee Afghan families in the year since the U.S. pullout and Taliban takeover. The Crescenta/Canada Democratic Club sponsored and event in September which hundreds attended, including our new Afghan friends.

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All the UUs  
that's fit to  
print.

## Sunday Services—October, 2022

**October 2**—Original Caretakers: A Preview of Sunland-Tujunga Indigenous Peoples' Day | **Evelyn Serrano and Kuyra**

Join UUVerdugo and Evelyn Serrano, co-organizer of the second annual Sunland-Tujunga Indigenous Peoples' Day, "an educational and participatory festival of music, dance, storytelling, and spoken word celebrating the historic and contemporary cultures of the Gabriellino Tongva, Kizh, Fernandeno Tatavian, Chumash, and Serrano as well as other native populations of California and the Americas who have made Los Angeles their home" for a preview of this special event to be held the following Sunday under the Mother Oak on Big Tujunga Canyon Road. Joining Serrano is the native music duo Kuyra.

**October 9**—Madalyn Murray O'Hair: The Most Hated Woman in America | **Willard Manus and Taylor Donlan**

The fascinating, triumphant, and tragic story of the controversial Madalyn Murray O'Hair, who successfully sued the Baltimore school system over mandatory school prayer in the 1960s and "put a mother's face on atheism," is told in the new play "The Atheist Mother." Playwright William Manus and actor Taylor Donlan (as O'Hair) join us for a discussion of O'Hair's impact and selections from the play.

**October 16**—Second Sight, Second Act | **Rena Strober**

Broadway and television actor Rena Strober, whose roles include Cosette in "Les Miserables" as well as numerous appearances on the Disney Channel, has for several years mixed music with education, finding fulfillment in teaching musical performance to blind children. She is also a cantorial candidate, and shares with us her journey from ingenue to elder Jew.

**October 23**—Sally Currie's Fvor | **Sally Currie**

Poet Sally Currie shares verses both topical and timeless ahead of a milestone birthday, approaching her tenth decade with wit and wrath.

**October 30**—You've Got Ofrenda

Bring photos and tokens of loved ones who have departed for UUVerdugo's makeshift Dia de Los Muertos *ofrenda* in a service that celebrates LatinX culture and a playful but reverent attitude toward death.

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST COMMUNITY OF THE VERDUGO HILLS  
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## Outreach & Sunday Services: Marty Barrett

I'm delighted to welcome Urban Homeschoolers to UUVerdugo. They will be holding classes from Monday through Thursday throughout the building—including music classes. They are a progressive and diverse group with some very cool classes, including a Model U.N. and a City Classroom in which students navigate the whole of L.A. on public transportation—no trifling skill. Urban Homeschoolers adjusted my own preconception of what homeschooling could be, and they will be very happy to talk with you about their vision and mission.

October will be a very busy month. In addition to the homeschoolers beginning class on October 3, we have five Sunday services featuring an especially artful, lyrical, musical, and dramatic lineup, culminating with our Dia de Los Muertos Ofrenda service on October 30.

We have also quadrupled our movie nights (this month only) in celebration of this Very Spooky Time. Simone Williams and Greg Burkart curate four increasingly scary movies over succeeding Wednesday nights, with contextual discussions beforehand and snacks throughout, the way movies should be. We might even have pea soup for "The Exorcist."

Continuing our spooky theme, October's Verdugo HUUT is "Murder Ballads" and we have some fantastic acts lined up, including Magically Delishus, billed as The World's Worst Irish Band, performing murder ballads by Tom Lehrer, Fairport Convention, and The Pogues. We'll also be joined by The Wizard of Rock and Richard Penn, among others.

Eagle-eyed newsletter fans will notice we have an extra page in this month's newsletter, befitting extra news. Keep it up! But please make sure to submit your entries in thoughtfully-formatted English by October 24th for November's edition. Your subject line should read **NEWSLETTER** and not **i mAiLED IT 2 cHrsteEN**.

Please join me Thursday night, October 13 for our quarterly Outreach Planning Pizza Soiree as we discuss Sunday services past and future and brainstorm ideas for community events. Please RSVP by October 12 so I know how much pizza to kick off the back of a truck. Your subject line should be **PIZZA NIGHT RSVP** rather than **i mAiLED IT 2 cHrsteEN**.

Finally, I wanted to wish a very happy birthday to our own **Deane Phinney**, who turned 97 on September 24. We were all planning to sing you Happy Birthday on the next morning's Zoom call, Deane, but I guess you were sleeping one off. You're a treasure to us and we hope to see you in-person soon.

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## President's Message: Paula Hallowell

Greetings Everyone,

We have some exciting news. Our Outreach Director Marty Barrett has found a home school group that is looking for a new home. October 3 will be their first day.

Every Wednesday this month will be scary classics. The first is one of my favorites, "Nosferatu." Made in 1922. I watched it for the second time few months ago. I will watch it a third time.

Indigenous Peoples' Day is coming up on the ninth and there will be a free event in Tujunga. It includes music, arts, dance, vendors, native foods, and more. Location is 12400 Big Tujunga Canyon Road, Tujunga CA, 12-3 pm.

On September 21st I dropped by church to do my usual checking of "things." I could hear our neighbor's dogs sounding off. I thought maybe someone might be in our backyard because many years ago we had a homeless person living in our water heater cabinet. That is why the small door in the small bathroom is bolted shut.

To my surprise, I saw a **coyote**. She looked at me and ran to the back of our property. I have heard they can scale a six foot fence. I opened the gate for her and she was gone in minutes.

A reminder!! October 2 is First Sunday Potluck Salad Lunch like the old days—sort of. We will have servers dishing out food. Volunteers are needed, please.

## Stewardship: Ann Kleinsasser

Our daughter, Lisa, came home from school one day in second grade and announced that kids at school were asking whether she was Catholic or Jewish. The question didn't totally surprise us, living in New York as we did at the time. But it was just the nudge we needed to find a spiritual home for our family.

On a crisp and sunny fall day, we attended an open house at a small Unitarian Fellowship in the woods of Mohegan Lake. The minute we walked in it felt like home, and as we climbed the stairs to the children's classrooms, the words and pictures framed on the walls confirmed for us that this was the right place!

Fast forward several years and we were again searching for a church home, this time in California. Walking into UUCVH gave us the same feeling of being home we had experienced in our New York fellowship. That was twenty-seven years ago. It's hard to say exactly why we get such fulfillment from caring for this place and the people in it. Working together to sort items for tag sales, organize classrooms, help with social events and Sunday services, garden, cook, clean, promote social justice...these are just some of the ways we all enjoy being good stewards of our lovely church.

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# OCTOBER 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 • INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY PREVIEW SALAD POTLUCK	3	4	5 SCARY MOVIE NIGHT "NOSFERATU" (1922) FRIENDSHIP HALL—7 P.M.	6	7 UU THE VOTE POSTCARDING FRIENDSHIP HALL—1:30 P.M.	8
9 • MADALYN MURRAY O'HAIR	10	11 UU THE VOTE POSTCARDING MADELINE'S HOUSE—2 P.M.	12 SCARY MOVIE NIGHT "SHADOW OF THE VAMPIRE" FRIENDSHIP HALL—7 P.M.	13 OUTREACH PLANNING PIZZA SOIREE FRIENDSHIP HALL—7 P.M.	14 ASCENCIA GUEST CHEF & FOOD BANK DROPOFF KITCHEN—2-4 P.M.	15 VERDUGO HUUT: MURDER BALLADS—7 P.M.
16 • SECOND SIGHT, SECOND ACT	17	18	19 SCARY MOVIE NIGHT "ROSEMARY'S BABY" FRIENDSHIP HALL—7 P.M.	20 UUVERDUGO BOARD MEETING FRIENDSHIP HALL	21 3RD FRIDAY LUNCHEON FRIENDSHIP HALL—12 P.M.	22
23 • SALLY CURRIE, POET	24 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	25	26 SCARY MOVIE NIGHT "THE EXORCIST" FRIENDSHIP HALL—7 P.M.	27	28	29
30 • DIA DE LOS MUERTOS CLOTHING DRIVE DROPOFF PIANO RECITAL (PRIVATE)	31					

UUVERDUGO SUNDAY SERVICES BEGIN AT 10:30 A.M. IN-PERSON  
OR ON ZOOM  
VISIT [UUVERDUGO.ORG](http://UUVERDUGO.ORG) FOR ZOOM CODE & PAYPAL DONATIONS

FEEL FREE TO BRING FOOD  
BANK DONATIONS TO SUNDAY  
SERVICE



**THE VERDUGO HUUT! PRESENTS**

A DELIGHTFUL EVENING OF

**MURDER  
BALLADS**

**SATURDAY, OCT 15  
7 P.M.**

**THE SANCTUARY AT UUYERDUGO  
VERDUGOHUUT.COM**

**\$15/GENERAL  
\$10/STUDENTS & SENIORS**