

Sunday Services, February 2023



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February 5—(Almost) 50 Years of Roe

The January, 1973 Supreme Court decision known as Roe v. Wade enshrined—with certain restrictions—a woman's right to terminate her pregnancy. The decision was amended, fought, and reaffirmed ever since, but in 2022 was struck down by a resurgently-conservative Supreme Court, resulting in a countrywide patchwork of abortion deserts and safe havens. We look at the history of the decisions, the people involved, and the UU response to the reversal of a woman's right to choose.

February 12—You're A Grand Old Pride Flag

From the first Rainbow Flag, designed by Gilbert Baker 45 years ago, to flags representing and celebrating the diversity of queer experience, we look at the evolution of the Pride Flag as well as reactions to it—from acceptance to assimilation to fear and resentment—in our country. Keilani Garcia, training and development instructor at the LA LGBT Center, joins us for an enlightening morning.

February 19—The 1619 Project And the Need for Black History Month

No sooner did someone declare "Black Lives Matter" than someone else reacted with "All Lives Matter." No sooner did Black History Month gain popularity than there was a "Why do *they* get a whole month?" backlash. As UUs worldwide seek to adopt an anti-racism 8th Principle, we discuss how our own mostly-Caucasian congregation can help affirm the worth and dignity of *every* person.

February 26—Last Night A DJ Saved My Life

Join us for the latest installment of a recent series of services in which UUVerdugo congregants and friends share where they were when a significant song arrived in their consciousness and how it continues to affect them.



FEBRUARY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5 ROE V. WADE 10:30 POTLUCK! NOON	6	7	8	9 SUNDAY SERVICE SQUAD 6:30	10 ASCENCIA FOOD PREP BAILEY FOOD DROPOFF 2-6	11
12 PRIDE FLAG 10:30	13	14	15	16	17 3RD FRIDAY POTLUCK! NOON	18 REIKI WKSHP W. MARY MADILL 2 P.M. \$10 HUUT! 7
19 1619 PROJECT 10:30	20	21	22 MOVIE NIGHT! "AMARGOSA" 6:00	23	24	25
26 LAST NIGHT A DJ... 10:30	27	28				

NOTE: THESE ARE PUBLIC EVENTS. PRIVATE RENTALS OR CHURCH-ONLY EVENTS ARE NOT LISTED ON THIS CALENDAR.
 ZOOM SERVICE MEETING ROOM: 897 9181 4237 // PASSWORD: 935066

All the UUs
that's fit to
print.

from the Board President

Greetings Everyone,

I would like to ask, did someone borrow the brown chairs? Many are missing. Please return them. We may need them because we are bringing back Friendship Dinners.

Yes, Friendship Dinners will resume in March. Let this be plenty of notice to past hosts to start cleaning the house. Guests start thinking about your potluck dish to bring. Your host may have a theme planned. It may be inside or outside. No matter where we dine it is always a good time. Watch for the sign-up sheet in Friendship Hall.

On February 22, we are re-running a movie we screened a few years ago. The documentary is "Amargosa." The main attraction is Marta Becket, a ballerina from New York. While on vacation with her husband, they had a flat tire in Death Valley. Waiting for the fix, she peeked through the window of Death Valley Junction's Corkill Hall. She had a vision of her life's future on the stage of this dilapidated building.

I attended her shows from the mid-1980s until her final show in February 2012 which was standing-room only. A Fire Marshal's nightmare. The ticket included a surf and turf dinner.

This month I will be attending the 55th Anniversary Celebration of her arrival, staying in the same room I booked for a New Year's Eve stay when she first opened the rooms to the public in 1990. All of her interior artwork in the Opera House was completed by that time. Come enjoy the amazing life this woman created along with the great cinematography at Movie Night! See you on the 22nd.

—Paula Hallowell

Social Justice

REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

New Project to help refugees and asylum seekers at and from our southern border. We are working with Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE), a Los Angeles-based nonprofit ("We educate, organize, and mobilize faith leaders and community." Stay tuned for more specifics on what is needed and where to leave items. Visit CLUE's website at <https://www.cluejustice.org>.

ASCENCIA HOMELESS SHELTER

Volunteers needed every second Friday afternoon to help with cooking at UUVerdugo, and serving the dinner at the shelter in Glendale. 2nd Friday Feb 10 Contact hwrichman@yahoo.com
Assembling hygiene packets: March (date TBA) we will donate these packets for distribution to the homeless by Ascencia outreach workers. We'll gather at Friendship Hall for assembly, snacks and chats.

BAILEY FOOD BANK

We need a volunteer for this month to drop non-perishables donations at Bailey Food Bank in Tujunga. Contact uucvh@uuverdugo.org.

ART: Check out our re-designed Wall and new table arrangement. Art is now labeled and tagged. FYI!

SPECIAL THANKS

to Christine Corrigan, our administrator, for distributing her lovely handmade bookmarks to members and friends.

Delicious Stewardship

During these recent winter months, stewardship has looked a lot like food at UUVerdugo.

We shared a pre-Thanksgiving potluck “friendship dinner” after many months without gathering in person for a meal. It was good to be together in fellowship for a fragrant feast!

On Christmas Eve we sipped hot cider and shared home-baked holiday cookies and treats.

We’ve recently returned to having a first-Sunday potluck after the service, and our “third-Friday” luncheons have returned to “potluck” status (no longer BYO), reviving some amazing culinary talents in our midst. And in mid-January, UU The Vote postcard writers were honored with a delicious dinner, spearheaded by Social Justice Chair Madeline Dow.

It’s always fun to prepare (or purchase) food to share, and to sample all the delicious offerings, but the fellowship enjoyed over these meals is what we have enjoyed the most. This is one important way we care for each other, honor the work we do together, and strengthen our church community. What will you cook up next?

—Ann Kleinsasser

Outreach & Sunday Services

Hello Pals,



We've got our fifth-anniversary Verdugo HUUT coming up on February 18. The bill is overflowing and we hope you can come. As you know from Sunday mornings, our sanctuary is a great place to listen to music. The theme of our anniversary extravaganza is "Your Valentine Is Wrong." Come for songs, stories, comedy, and surprises all about Love Gone Sideways.

The community this show has built and the talent it has attracted is something we should all be very proud of. UUVerdugo volunteers who have taken tickets, made snacks, and been so welcoming are the reason that performers love to come here.

"People Are Saying..."

I don't need to tell you that there are many ways that Unitarian Universalism is expressed, and it often looks different depending on the community's location, the age of its congregants, and some identifying aspects of its minister. Though I spend a lot of time on the podium, I hasten to remind people who are confused by my majestic beard that I am not a minister. I'm lucky, however, to have met dozens of UU ministers around the country.

(Continued on next page. It's a long column this month!)

As we figure out whether we will continue with the Fellowship Model or seek a settled minister some time in the future, I've subscribed to several UU publications as well as blogs curated by UU luminaries. One I'm fond of, "Hold My Chalice," is written by the Rev. Kimberley Debus, who twice spoke to us remotely during the lockdown era at the invitation of Rev. Slack.

In my experience going to UU conventions, I was both heartened and dismayed to learn that congregations around the country have similar problems, strengths, and—hilariously—casts of characters. That's right: **There is a Howard in every church** (and the churches couldn't survive without him).

I also learned that what ministers say about their congregations and what congregations say about their ministers is eerily similar. Thus I present you with an excerpt from Rev. Debus's column with a link to the whole article.



I write this having returned from yet another conversation with a brilliant, young, queer minister who is not a dude, a minister who is knowledgeable, kind, creative, excited about our faith, committed to the work of justice and belonging. A minister that a congregation called because you wanted a fresh voice in your pulpit.

The conversation I just had is like every conversation I have with brilliant (well educated, sharp, creative thinkers), young (oddly, under 45 is young in this instance), queer (perhaps sexual orientation, but often just willing to 'queer' the faith through radical inclusion) ministers who are not a dude (meaning they are cis-female, non-binary or trans).

Every conversation with a brilliant, young, queer minister who is not a dude is filled with concerns of being worn down, worn out, and in some cases being actively undermined.

By some of the very same people who called them to their current settlements as your ministers. "Oh, not us!" they exclaim. "We love our brilliant, young, queer minister who is not a dude! We think they go too fast sometimes or don't understand us or want to change too much or preach too much about justice or are too bold in our community or don't do things exactly as we'd like... but we love them!"

Um... that's not love.

When they talk over coffee or at the diner or after a meeting in the parking lot about how your brilliant, young, queer minister who is not a dude doesn't fit in or do the things they like... that's where the trouble begins.

Because someone decides the opinion of the three people they talked to is an appropriate sample size and that everyone must feel this way, and so the concern trolling begins. "People are saying..." is usually how it starts.

And when the brilliant, young, queer minister who is not a dude pushes back, or doesn't do what "people are saying" - then a few people decide that the brilliant, young, queer minister who is not a dude is the problem.

Because I have a sense of where this conversation originated and because I can see several sides of it, I leave it to you to embark on a free and responsible search for truth and meaning in the words above. The rest of Rev. Debus's column can be found here: <https://holdmychalice.substack.com/p/the-person-in-the-pulpit>



So Long, Susan

On the last day of January we learned of the passing of the wonderful Susan Pearson, activist, animal advocate, and pillar of the community.

Susan was a co-founder, with her great husband and partner, John, of the Crescenta Valley chapter of Indivisible, the progressive organization that often met at UUVerdugo and that counted many of our congregants as members. Susan was 75 and simply the best.

We are shocked by the loss of such a vital person, and will miss her deeply. I will post memorial information when it is available.

Sunday Service Squad

We will be meeting on Thursday, February 9, with pizza and beverages, for the quarterly convocation of this august organization. Please bring ideas for future services as well as your willingness to learn how to press the Zoom button, bang a gong, and set the chalice alight.

—Marty Barrett

A WINDY NIGHT AT UUVERDUGO



POTLUCKS ARE BACK! EVERY THIRD FRIDAY AT NOON



photo credit: Paula Hallowell