

Sunday Services, April 2023



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST COMMUNITY
OF THE VERDUGO HILLS
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April 2—A Paranormal Investigator Looks At Biblical Miracles Speaker: Jim Underdown

Veteran science-based investigator Jim Underdown will look at some of the biblical miracles and compare them to similar claims being made today. He'll also touch on how a believer might interpret biblical miracles in a way that is consistent with modern science.

April 9—Roll Away the Stone: An Easter Service Guest Speaker: John Crye

While Unitarian Universalism is not a Christian spiritual practice, we do recognize the significance of Easter and its many pre-Christian forebears. Join our springtime celebration that doesn't skimp on solemnity. And maybe bring a hat!

April 16—Who Will Turn on the TV for Me When the Kids Are Gone? Guest Speaker: Mara Donahoe

Aside from teaching our children well, we learn to recognize, in good faith, that our trusted solutions might not fit changing circumstances. Teacher Mara Donahoe shares insight on being a wise elder to the next generation.

April 23—"Poems Fall Like April Rain" Congregant Leader: Ann Kleinsasser

Looking for inspiration? Celebrate National Poetry Month with us as favorite poems, classics, and original works are shared. There's sure to be something from The Bard, whose birthday we honor this month.

April 30—Community Partner Spotlight: The Bailey Center Guest Speaker: Connie Wright

A small congregation changes with the times and uses its facilities and resources to provide services for the greater community. Sound familiar? Connie Wright tells us about the good work of the Bailey Center.



2023 April

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---------|-----------|----------|--|---|
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 |
| SUNDAY SERVICE—10:30 PLEDGE KICKOFF 12 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | ASCENCIA FOOD PREP BAILEY FOOD DROPOFF 2-6 | 8 |
| SUNDAY SERVICE—10:30 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 3RD FRIDAY POTLUCK! NOON | 15 |
| SUNDAY SERVICE—10:30 REIKI W. MARY 1 P.M./\$10 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | VERDUGO HUUT! 7:00 DONATIONS: \$15 PUBLIC \$10 UU, SENIOR, STUDENT |
| SUNDAY SERVICE—10:30 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| | NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS DUE | | | | GAME NIGHT! 5:30 | |
| SUNDAY SERVICE—10:30 PLANTSWAP 2 P.M. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

ZOOM SERVICE MEETING ROOM: 897 9181 4237 // PASSWORD: 935066
 NOTE: PRIVATE RENTALS ARE NOT LISTED ON THIS CALENDAR.

Stewardship

It's Spring! Yeah! It's time to annually recommit ourselves to our lovely place in the sun here in the Verdugo Hills! This Sunday, April 2nd, we will have a chance to get together over lunch after church. We will have pledge envelopes for you as well as some stories about why it's important to contribute to our church! See you there!

—Linda Hunt

NO SUNDAY POTLUCK ON APRIL 2!

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR
PLEDGE DRIVE KICKOFF LUNCHEON
SUNDAY, APRIL 2**

**THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE WILL TREAT YOU TO
A CATERED LUNCH AND SHORT PROGRAM TO KICK OFF OUR
APRIL PLEDGE DRIVE AT UOVERDUGO.
PLEDGE ENVELOPES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED.**

Letting Bylaws Be Bylaws*

Dear Fellow Congregants,

It is often said by management/motivational types (I am not kidding when I tell you I that I first heard the following at a Tony Robbins seminar at Harvard Business School) that “the Chinese character for ‘crisis’ is the same as the one for ‘opportunity’”). While this is not true, it certainly sounds cool. In any case, we have an opportunity ahead of us in the election of our next board of trustees and the necessary updating of/compliance with our UUVerdugo bylaws.

Because major sections of our bylaws (a 12-page document everyone should read) were written when UUVerdugo had many more members, they did not provide for the burnout that would inevitably occur when there weren't enough qualified candidates to populate a board. Thus, since the nominating committee has not been able to secure a qualified slate for the 2023/24 fiscal year, we now have an opportunity to mediate burnout and increase efficiency, transparency, and accountability. In order to do this we must have a special meeting prior to our annual meeting, so that solutions for the next board of trustees can be voted in before that board is seated on July 1. Doing it afterward compounds a problem.

Among the proposed solutions for leadership come July 1: a co-president scheme, going without a president, increasing the officers to seven (the board is now operating out of compliance with four members), and a rotating presidency in which three congregants take executive duties for four months at a time, reverting to trustees for the remaining eight months. Along with a Treasurer and a Secretary with augmented reporting duties, this five-member board solution is, in my opinion, the optimal one as it best maintains consistency and accountability and ensures the people in those positions remain efficient and answerable to each other.

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Letting Bylaws Be Bylaws cont'd

In order to weigh these solutions and solve a problem sooner rather than later/never, according to the bylaws, ten congregants must petition the board of trustees to convene a special meeting at which we will discuss 1.) Bylaw revision and 2.) Board of Trustees structure for the 2023/24 fiscal year that commences July 1, 2023.

I will be sending congregants an email separately. In the meantime, here are some pertinent sections of the bylaws to delight you:

Section I. Annual Meeting. The regular annual meeting of this Church for election of Officers and Trustees and other business shall be held on a date to be determined by the Board of Trustees, provided that it shall be in the month of May or June each year **and announced to the membership no later than March 15**. Final notice of the annual meeting shall be given in writing to the membership at least twenty (20) days prior to the meeting and shall specify the business to be conducted, as well as the time and place. All items proposed for the agenda shall be presented in writing to the Board of Trustees at least forty-five (45) days prior to the meeting.

Section 2. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Church may be called by the Board of Trustees **and shall be called upon the written request of ten (10) or more voting members of the Church**. Notice of special meetings **shall be given in writing** to the membership at least twenty (20) days prior to the meeting and shall specify the business to be conducted, as well as the time and place. Five (5) members of the Board of Trustees may empower the President to waive the twenty (20) day requirement provided effective notification of the membership is employed.

*Credit for this world-class pun goes to my daughter, Marisol, who is now fascinated by bylaws

—Marty Barrett

All the UUs
that's fit to
print.

from the Board President

Greetings Everyone,

In my writing this column, it has been two days since the Friendship Dinner. I am still reviewing the night with a smile. The last one was Leap Day, February 29, 2020. We know socializing came to an end soon after.

I felt it was very important for us all to be all together in one home but it was two homes that filled the bill to perfection.

Having Valerie live across the street from me made a perfect idea for a progressive-style dining experience. People inside and outside by the fire and of course lots of delicious appetizers and conversation.

There were 24 people signed up. In my perfect world, everyone would be at one table. I was playing table Tetris trying to fit everyone. I was concerned I would have people sitting on the floor at the coffee table. There were a few last-minute changes and we had 18 attend.

We certainly know how to celebrate with food. The stunning dish of the evening was Patriciaa's pumpkin. Marty made enough lasagna for 40 people. I will be eating leftovers for a few more days.

A couple of kitchen fairies came in and took my control of dishwashing. Anne and Abby you two can do anything you want in my kitchen (except break dishes). I guess it doesn't matter if the dishes are dirty or clean. I have the same memories of looking at them in the drainer, now clean and ready to put away.

I had the best time! I want to do it again and again. Hosting, it's the reason to clean the house. Thank you to everyone attending. I feel alive. This was a celebration for the history books.

—Paula Hallowell

Social Justice

Baldwin Park Asylum Shelter and Food Bank

Thanks again to all who donated. We have more donations and will make another trip in April or May. Thanks to Paula Hollowell and Linda Hunt. We need volunteers to help deliver items to the Shelter. Please contact arpeggiata@yahoo.com

Family of Four from Colombia

We visited a family of four Colombian asylum seekers now in an apartment in Reseda and brought needed donated items and food for them. Later this month we raised funds to help members of their extended family to obtain air transport for their court hearing. Thanks to Ann Kleinsasser, Linda Hunt, and Bill Pohner and all who donated. (We are no longer collecting these items.)

Ascencia Homeless Shelter

Every Second Friday. We still need help cooking and serving the food. Contact Howard hwrichman@yahoo.com for details

Hygiene Kits

These were prepared by a hardy team of SJ-ers accompanied by snacks and chats.

Check out Susan Parson's beautiful photographs of animals in Friendship Hall on the bulleting board below the staircase.

Bailey Food Bank

We delivered several boxes of supplies last week. Connie and Jack Wright, the organizers, are looking forward to visiting UUVerdugo on April 30 when Connie will be the service lector. Please leave food items on the right in the back of the sanctuary. We need a volunteer for April to deliver the donations. Contact office administrator Christine Corrigan at uucvh@uuverdugo.org.

Recycling

Please leave your glass and some plastic containers at the back of the sanctuary on the left in the sanctuary or contact Linda Hunt, who will take them to the recycle center. Proceeds go to our social justice projects.

Postcarding

We are embarking on a yet another project. We will be gathering to write postcards and letters to Members of Congress across the country urging them to STOP GUN VIOLENCE. We will prepare a succinct message and provide materials. Location, date and time TBA. Look for us in announcements and emails! Visit this link for more information: https://www.zazzle.com/stop_gun_violence_postcard-256957395361314957

—Madeline Dow

Social Justice



THE BAILEY CENTER IS A HIVE OF ACTIVITY

Outreach & Sunday Services

Howdy Folks,

In his poem "The Wasteland," T.S. Eliot referred to April as "the cruelest month." Now I am a big fan of Mr. Eliot's work (and I don't blame him for the "Cats" movie), but he was certainly not referring to UUVerdugo, which this April is hosting a glorious five edifying Sunday services that would surely unroll J. Alfred Prufrock's trouser cuffs. According to a necromancer who lives in a stump by my house, April has not had five Sundays since 1342 when dinosaurs roamed the Sun. Look at the schedule on the first page to learn more.

If you had the opportunity to come to our last HUUT, you were treated to the brilliant raconteurism of Owen Dara, the dancing-in-the-aisles song stylings of Tom Bishel, the aggressively sweet comedy of the duo Pure & Weary, and dramatic readings of W.B. Yeats in honor of St. Patrick's Day. Our next HUUT will be April 15. Come and spend your tax refund on signature cocktails!

April also features the lovely "Local Hero" on Movie Night, a Plant Swap in the parking lot on April 30 (organized by our friend Patriciaa Soares), and a Game Night, open to all, hosted by the Model U.N. class of the Urban Homeschoolers on Friday, April 28.

Some housekeeping: Please send newsletter submissions to me within the body of an email, not as an attachment, and please use "FOR (NEXT MONTH'S) NEWSLETTER" in the subject line. Sending them on time is always very helpful (see deadline on calendar) but I recognize that Things Happen. I will try to accommodate you if you're late. Also, if you are ever home alone without a Sunday order of service, you can always look at our website or refer to this very newsletter calendar for the Zoom meeting ID and password.

Finally, many thanks to Paula and Valerie for hosting the multi-house Friendship Dinner last week. The food and company were excellent and we were serenaded by peafowl all night. Dinners like this are one of the many places we shine.



OWEN DARA AT THE MARCH HUUT