

VUUPOINT

NOVEMBER 2015



Valley Unitarian Universalist
1965 - 2015 50 CONGREGATION
Just the beginning
years

Sunday Services 10:30 A.M.

6400 W. Del Rio Street
Chandler, AZ 85226
480-899-4249
office@vuu.org



Sunday Services 10:30 A.M.

Gratitude

November 1 *Gratitude for Lives Well Spent: Remembering Our Loved Dead*

The Reverend Andy Burnette

The Adult Choir will sing.

November 8 *How Much Is Enough?*

The Reverend Terry Sims

On this date, the Phoenix-Area UU ministers are swapping pulpits, each preaching on the theme of gratitude. Rev. Sims writes, "There is a battle within each of us, I believe, between greed and gratitude, between wanting more and being satisfied with what we already have. Contentment may be a sign that reveals gratitude; it can also reveal something not as laudable. Is there a spiritual balance between thankfulness for what is and dissatisfaction with what is not? The Worship Band will play.

November 15 *On Being Brave, Bold, and Bodacious*

Led by James Key, Unitarian Universalist Association Moderator (see bio on page 7)

The Adult and Children’s Choirs will sing, and the Worship Band will play.

November 22 *Grateful for this? Gratitude in the Tough Times*

The Reverend Andy Burnette

The Adult Choir and the Bell Choir will provide music. There will be a café after the service followed by the film *Belle* (for more info see page 4)

November 29 *My Grateful Heart*

The Reverend Kellie Walker Hart

Rev. Kellie will be giving the sermon, and there will be lots of congregational singing. She loves singer-songwriter Peter Mayer’s image and song about a Japanese Bowl. In Japan bowls are not thrown out when they become cracked and broken, but are filled with gold so that they become stronger and more beautiful. To her, this is the essence of gratitude.

NOVEMBER EVENTS AT A GLANCE

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 11/01 New Member Recognition | 11/19 Bible Study |
| VUUGS Forum | 11/20 VUUW Happy HoUUr |
| 11/05 Bible Study | 11/22 Racism in Films – Belle |
| 11/07 AZ Faith Network Event | VUUGS Meeting |
| Singles Food & Film | Great Books Discussion Group |
| 11/12 VUU Women’s Group | 11/24 Interfaith Thanksgiving Service |
| 11/14 Singles Fountain Hills Trip | 11/26 Thanksgiving with JoAnne |
| Community Work Day | 11/27 Singles Monthly Dinner |
| 11/15 Newsletter Deadline | 11/29 Pageant Rehearsal |
| 11/17 Spirit of Life Reading Group | |

Sundays – Dalai Lama & Friends

“A Moment with the Minister”



Recently, I was involved in an online conversation with some colleagues. One of us had been thinking about the word ‘practicing’, as in practicing Christians, practicing Jews, practicing Muslims and Buddhists and Hindus. She wondered, what would it mean to be a practicing Unitarian Universalist?

It’s not an easy question. Although we encourage and equip one another for spiritual growth, we do not have many prescriptions for practice outside Sunday morning worship. But one UU minister, Rev. Galen Guengerich, has an idea about what practicing Unitarian Universalism could mean.

Rev. Guengerich writes, “In the same way that Judaism is defined by obedience, Christianity by love, and Islam by submission, I believe that Unitarian Universalism should be defined by gratitude. Why gratitude? Two dimensions of gratitude make it fitting as our defining religious practice. One has to do with a discipline of gratitude, and the other has to do with an ethic of gratitude. The discipline of gratitude reminds us how utterly dependent we are on the people and world around us for everything that matters. From this flows an ethic of gratitude that obligates us to create a future that justifies an increasing sense of gratitude from the human family as a whole. The ethic of gratitude demands that we nurture the world that nurtures us in return. It is our duty to foster the kind of environment that we want to take in, and therefore become.”

What might *your* discipline of gratitude look like? A moment of pause before meals? Regular conversations with friends or family in which you take turns expressing gratitude? More? Theologian and author G.K. Chesterton has written, “You say grace before meals. All right. But I say grace before the concert and the opera, and grace before the play and pantomime, and grace before I open a book, and grace before sketching, painting, swimming, fencing, boxing, walking, playing, dancing and grace before I dip the pen in the ink.” Chesterton seems to be describing the practice of seeing life itself as a gift of grace.

Don’t get me wrong, I don’t think gratitude is easy. We’ll explore in a Sunday morning worship service this month the challenge of practicing gratitude in tough times. If we build practices of gratitude into our everyday lives, we may be better prepared when struggles come. It is possible to maintain gratitude in the worst of times. In fact, there are lots of examples of people who have done just that. I won’t go any further to keep from giving sermon spoilers!

Let me end this article by saying how grateful I am for you. It is one of the great joys of my life to serve as your minister. My family and I love living and serving in community with you. Thanks for all the many gifts you bring to our faith home, Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation!

With Love,
Rev. Andy

LOVE IS OUR DOCTRINE
.....SERVICE IS OUR PRAYER
.....JUSTICE IS OUR CALLING

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Friends of VUU,

We have just signed 21 new members to the VUU congregation—the largest membership induction in our history! These new members will be honored in the worship service this Sunday.

We welcome these new members and invite them to join us as we reach out further into the larger community with our interfaith and social justice work. In his latest sermon, Reverend Andy challenged us to continue to educate and sensitize ourselves to the Black Lives Matter Movement. Work at VUU has included the formation of a steering committee, a film series, a signed banner, a meeting with the ASU Black Graduate Students Association and contact with local police chiefs. We will continue to listen, learn and follow allies on this cause.

We are striving to make a bigger difference in the wider community. To that end, among others, we have kicked off our Vision 2020 planning process by administering the “Percept” survey used by many other congregations. We’ve had a high level of participation—183 responses from attendees at two Sunday services in September—thank you!

Here are some interesting things we learned about the larger community we serve:

- People who attend VUU primarily reside in the Southeast Valley in 20 adjacent zip codes.
- There are nearly 800,000 people residing in the area we serve.
- This population is expected to increase by 4.9% between 2012 and 2017.
- The community is diverse--proportions of Hispanic, Asian and Native American residents exceed US averages.
- By age group, the largest demographic consists of people aged 31-54 (31.9%). People older than this group only constitute 21% of our area population, versus 29% nationally.
- Our area is more highly educated than average—with 69% of adults having some college experience.
- The “nones” are well-represented: 45% of people in our area report no faith involvement, and 23% report no religious preference at all.
- Community concerns span a wide spectrum of needs: 23% of people are worried about “the basics” like food, while 33% are concerned about achieving their “hopes and dreams.”

These and other facts can help us understand the community. We will also share insights about our own congregation that will inform our subsequent small group conversations about the future of VUU. Later this fall, you will be invited to participate—we’ll keep you posted on schedules, and thank you in advance for your involvement.

As you know, our mission cannot proceed without consistent funding. We did receive generous pledges this year—higher than last year—but the actual payments have been slower than prior years. So I would like to thank those of you who responded to the requests for timely pledge payments! Your support is essential.

Yours in service,
Janice Miller
 President
 VUU Board of Trustees

Religious Education November 2015

We will start working on the Holiday pageant this month. Our pageant this year is THREE WISE WOMEN, a little shift from the traditional nativity story.

Please keep these dates in mind:

Nov 15 – No RE classes, we will all be together in the sanctuary for a multi-generational worship service.

Nov. 22 – need parent helpers, during RE classes, to organize costumes, props, and back drops

Nov. 29 – pageant rehearsal, costume fitting

Dec. 6 – pageant rehearsal, costume fitting

DECEMBER 13- HOLIDAY PAGEANT, in the sanctuary

Continuing Adult Enrichment Programs

Continuing the Conversation: Racism in Film

Location: Valley UU Sanctuary

Time: 12:00--3:00 pm

Cafes: to be announced

This series will be facilitated by Beverly McCormick and Barb Quijada. The films and conversations afterwards will create an opportunity for deeper understanding of how racist ideas and attitudes are embedded in the culture. How, on a conscious or unconscious level, they support discrimination and violence. The Unitarian Universalist General Assembly of 2015, through a procedure called "Action of Immediate Witness" ** asked each congregation to address this issue. This is one of the approaches we have chosen.

The Films

November 22: *Belle* - deals with the dichotomy facing a free mulatto woman raised in a British affluent, albeit condescending, family in the late 18th early 19th century. The wealth of the economy being built on the slave trade. Belle is befriended by a young man who works as an assistant to her uncle, who is a judge. He tells Belle of a case pending concerning the slave trade. She is appalled by the practice. She is also faced with the challenge of having fallen in love with her friend, a white man.

There will be a conversation circle after the film.

February 7: *To Kill a Mocking Bird*

March 6: *Rosewood*

April 10: *Do the Right Thing*

**Complete document on Action of Immediate Witness is available at the back of the sanctuary.

Bible Study – Gospel of Luke

Facilitator: Rev. Andy

Thursdays: Nov 5, 19

7 – 8:30 pm in the sanctuary

To sign up: email Rev. Andy at revandy@vuu.org

The Gospel of Luke emphasizes inclusion of the poor and seemingly powerless in its telling of the story of Jesus. In our five sessions together, we will explore Luke's Gospel in its original context, ask what it meant to its original hearers, and finally ponder what messages it might hold for 21st-century Unitarian Universalists. We will use portions of John Buehrens' book "Understanding the Bible" as a resource.

Spirit of Life reading group

Facilitators: Rebecca Riggs, Mary Rothschild, Anne Schneider

All are welcome to this theologically-oriented reading group led by Mary Rothschild, Rebecca Riggs and Anne Schneider. We meet once a month, usually on the fourth Tuesday evening. For each month, we choose a couple of on-line readings and then discuss them during our session. Theologically, we range from atheist/agnostic to Christian-UU and everything in between. Our purposes are to deepen our spiritual life, enrich our philosophical reflections, and connect with each other in a meaningful way.

Contact maryloganrothschild@gmail.com to be on the mailing list!

DATES: Tuesdays: Nov 17, Dec 15, Jan 19, Feb 16, March 15, April 19, May 17
7 – 8:30 pm in rooms 1 & 2 in the RE complex



The Dalai Lama and Friends Workshop

An opportunity to learn from the Dalai Lama and other Tibetan and modern Buddhist teachers is offered each Sunday from 9-10AM in the RE complex, room 5. There is a reading or recorded audio or video teaching, then group discussion. Everyone is welcome! Various topics are discussed, such as 'how to be more compassionate' or 'dealing with anger' or 'how to meditate'.

If you come early there is also meditation from 8:30-9. Done at 10 - plenty of time to get to the VUU service! ...questions? Just email scottlhenderson@yahoo.com

Child care available starting at 9.

The N.S.G. (Not So Great) Book Club

The N.S.G. Book Club will not be meeting in November. We will meet on December 10 at 7:00 at the Monahan home (near 101 & Ray Rd) for our holiday party. We will be selecting books for next year.

Anyone is welcome who enjoys discussing books and who would like to make suggestions for books to read and discuss in 2016. This group does not require that you attend every month – come when the book is of interest to you and you would like to discuss it with others.

For the meeting address or questions, please contact Johnnie at 480-839-0544, Amy at 480-917-1922, or email: agmonahan@gmail.com.

Great Books discussion group

The Great Books Discussion Group will discuss Friedrich Nietzsche's "On Evil, Guilt, and Power" from our "The Evil and the Guilty" collection. We will meet Sunday, November 22 at 7pm in Room 5.

All are welcome. Come join us! Contact Kevin Erdmann at kebko@yahoo.com if you have any questions.



MUSIC AND MEMBERSHIP MINISTRIES



NEW SONG: The Children's Choir has helped me introduce a new Bridge of Love song, "Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round." It is a traditional song, probably an old African American spiritual that was used in the Civil Rights movement. The Rev. Ralph Abernathy taught it one night in the summer of 1962 at a mass meeting of civil rights activists. According to "Sing for Freedom: The story of the Civil Rights Movement through its Songs" by Guy & Candie Carawan, it immediately caught on and was widely used in demonstrations. A CBS documentary showed students clapping and singing it while they were picked up, two at a time, & carried into the paddy wagons. It is an engaging but powerful song that our children immediately liked, and reminds us to keep working for justice for all. It also reminds our kids to speak up when they see others being treated unfairly or bullied.

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE: About 15 members of our Adult Choir will be singing with singers from other faith traditions at an annual Thanksgiving service. This year it is being held at the Tempe, AZ Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, located at 2707 S. College Ave (near Alameda) in Tempe on Tuesday, November 24th. All are welcome to attend & the service starts at 7 PM. An offering will be taken to benefit people in Tempe who are in need this holiday season.

HOLIDAY ORCHESTRA: This has become an annual tradition & is open to anyone who has trained on a musical instrument for at least one year. It's a fun group that plays holiday music during our RE Pageant, which will be on December 13 during the Sunday morning service. Led by our pianist Aleks Izotov, look for rehearsals after church, probably on Nov. 29 and Dec. 6.



MEMBERSHIP MINISTRY: As I write this, we plan to welcome **21 new members** in our recognition ceremony during the Sunday morning service on Nov. 1. There will also be a cafe afterward, where you can buy your lunch and get to know our newest members a bit better. This is a change from when we had a Friday night reception, and we hope that more of the whole congregation will stay and make our new members feel welcome.

If you are interested in membership at VUU, our next Journey to Membership session will be on Sunday, January 31 from noon to 4 in Room 1 of the Religious Education complex (west side of parking lot, through the black gate). The final one for this church year will be Sunday, April 24, noon to 4.



-Rev. Kellie Walker Hart

VUU COMMUNITY

Let's Have **FUUNd** Together 2016!!

WHAT'S THAT?

FUUNd Together is an exciting auction of fantastic events and services donated by VUU members and friends like **YOU**.

HOW CAN **WE** JOIN THE **FUUNd**?

- 1) Think about a party, service, or **FUUNd** event you can host for old and new friends at VUU. We have plenty of ideas available Sunday mornings at the **FUUNd Together** table.
- 2) REGISTER your donation. Visit the **FUUNd Together** table before or after Sunday Services, or download a donation form at www.vuu.org and email it to fuundtogether@vuu.org. Be sure to pick a date between 3/1/16 and 2/28/17 for your event.
- 3) Fill up your social calendar by bidding during the **FUUNd Together** auction on Sunday mornings in February.

All donations must be received by December 31st. Please help support VUU's mission of love, service, and justice by donating an event or service today. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

About James Key (our guest speaker/preacher on Sunday, Nov. 15)

James Key is the special guest for our annual homecoming service. He is the moderator of the Unitarian Universalist Association, the UUA's highest volunteer office. Key has served our faith from the ground up—helping to found a new congregation in Beaufort, SC, serving as its president for five years, vice president then president of the Thomas Jefferson/Southeast District. He facilitated the organizing meeting for the Southern Region of the UUA, and served on several committees at the UUA which included chairing the UUA Audit Committee.

The majority of Key's business career was spent with IBM in administration, finance, and internal audit roles. After retiring from IBM, Key became the founding partner of and continues to be active in the management consulting firm, Shenandoah Group, LLP, which focuses on governance, risk management, and compliance solutions for clients around the globe. He is also one of the organizers of and continues to serve on the board of CBC National Bank. He is a frequent speaker, facilitator, and trainer for a wide range of audiences in the private, government, and not-for-profit sectors.

He is married to Liz Key, whom he met in junior high school. Her career has been in nursing, often working in clinics that served at-risk, low-income women. They have been each other's most trusted partners and confidants. The Keys have three children, along with their partners from various ethnicities, and six grandchildren make for joyous family celebrations centered around a bounteous table of cuisines from across the world.



Meeting Change- Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, we are changing the date of our next meeting to **Sunday, November 22**, at 12 noon in the Boardroom. Visitors are welcome. We provide snacks due to the hour.

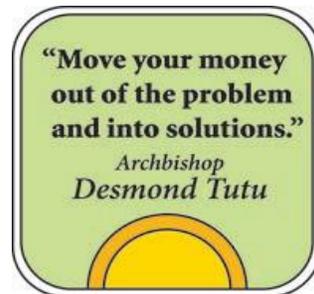


Art Supply Collection- Thank you to all who have remembered to bring their art supplies to VUU. All during the month of **October**, we collect art supplies you no longer need/want: paper, file folders, pens, pencils, paints, glass tiles, fabrics, non-recyclable bottle caps, corks, plastic forks, spoons or knives (think outside the box) in a large green plastic storage bin in or near the foyer. These materials are then given to The Art Resource Center in Tempe, a 501 c 3 organization which then gives them to teachers and artists upon request.

"Act on Climate AZ" - On **Saturday, November 7**, from 9-11 am in Civic Space Park Phoenix, we are participating with AZ Faith Network to help put on an event called "Act on Climate Arizona/ Our Moral Obligation". We hope you'll join us.

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/events/995428447183449/> to get more information about it and free tickets."

DIVEST from FOSSIL FUELS
The UUA did it! VUU did it! You can do it too!



If your investment portfolio has money in the fossil fuel industry, it is working against clean energy solutions. On November 1st VUU Green Sanctuary is holding a forum to discuss what you can do to divest from fossil fuels and invest in renewable energy. The forum will be in the sanctuary, following the Sunday service. Grab a lunch at the café hosted by the RE scholarship support group and bring it to the forum.

UUA is divesting. VUU is divesting. Let's put our money where our values are.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY WISHES!

VUU would like to recognize those Members who are celebrating their 10- plus anniversaries.

We're grateful for everything they have contributed over the years to help make VUU a growing and dynamic community. When you see them, please let them know how much we appreciate all they have done over the years!

Members who have anniversaries in November 2015 are:

10 to 19 years:

- Debra Bettis*
- Barbara Face*
- Richard & Michele Fahy*
- Alan & Karen McGarrity*
- Molly McNamara*
- Lisa Shane*
- Nancy Stillings*
- Eloise Zachery*

20 to 29 Years:

- Johnnie May*

30 to 39 Years:

- Marge Brodrick & Courtney Phillips*
- DiAnna Farmer*

40 to 49 Years:

- Deborah Dinyes*

Thank you all so much for being an important part of our Community!

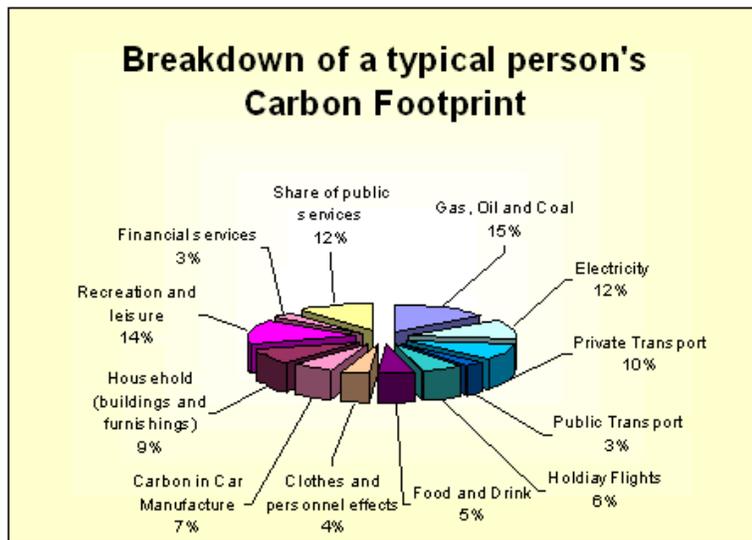
VUU Green Sanctuary, our environmental social justice group, is asking members and our friends of VUU to take this quick and easy Carbon Foot Print Survey.

This will help us to determine what areas we as a Congregation can do better to lessen our impact and what areas we are already meeting goals to save our planet from environmental damage. Answer to the closest choice that fits your household.

The Survey is anonymous and meant for one household. Thus once taken from an IP address, the system will shut out anyone taking the survey from the same device. It is suggested to complete the survey from your laptop or desk top or tablet rather than Smart Phone, but your choice.

The Survey will continue to be available thru November. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated so we may propose a planned project educating all of us to the need to reduce our carbon footprint and how we can do that.

Link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VUU_GreenSanctuary



How do I Christmas shop at AmazonSmile to benefit VUU?

- CLICK FOR DIRECT LINK TO VUU AMAZONSMILE: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/86-0211838>
- Then simply complete your Amazon shopping through AmazonSmile from your web browser on your computer or mobile device.
- You may also want to add a bookmark to VUU AmazonSmile to make it even easier to return and start your shopping.



November Donation of the Month – Stuffing & Cranberries

Please support our focus charity, Paz de Cristo, by bringing donations needed to help stock Thanksgiving dinner boxes, including stuffing and cranberries.

Drop your donation in the designated boxes/crates at the Social Action Ministry table in the foyer of the sanctuary.

Thank you for your continued support of the “Donation of the Month” program.

Community Work Day – Saturday, November 14th – 8am - 2pm

There will be jobs available in all areas of the congregation campus. No special skills needed. Just a big heart and willingness to join your VUU friends in giving our spiritual home a facelift.



“When we become more fully aware that our success is due in large measure to the loyalty, helpfulness, and encouragement we have received from others, our desire grows to pass on similar gifts. Gratitude spurs us on to prove ourselves worthy of what others have done for us. The spirit of gratitude is a powerful energizer.” — Wilferd A. Peterson

VUU EVENTS

VUU SINGLES UPCOMING

FOOD AND FILM AT RENEE'S, Saturday, November 7, 6:00 pm

We'll gather at Renee's for a Pot Luck meal followed by a film. Food theme will be announced by Renee in the coming weeks and the film will be selected by a vote of those interested. Location: 4761 E. Pawnee Circle, Phoenix (Ahwatukee). RSVP by text or phone call to Renee at 602-471-0362 or Claudette 973-768-6047.

FOUNTAIN HILLS ART FESTIVAL, Saturday, November 14, 10 am TO 5 pm

We'll be carpooling from the church at 10am to the sweet town of Fountain Hills for their Festival of Arts and Crafts. We'll also see fountains and outdoor sculptures as we explore this planned community. We'll travel to the town and begin at the fairgrounds where we will be able to get lunch and listen to live entertainment. After exploring the festival and the permanent attractions, we'll head back to the church about 4pm. - Please RSVP by contacting Tim (612-298-6072) or Claudette (973-768-6047) by text.

MONTHLY DINNER OUT, Friday, November 27 (Thanksgiving Weekend), 6:30 pm, PERFECT PEAR BISTRO.

This is our monthly dinner out when we share a good meal and great conversation! Meet at the church at 6:00 pm to carpool to The Perfect Pear which is very nearby at the NE corner of Ray and Priest (9845 S. Priest Dr., Tempe). Please RSVP by contacting Tim (612-298-6072) or Claudette (973-768-6047) by text. DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: Tuesday, November 24.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, DESERT BOTANICAL GARDEN LUMINARIAS AND LIGHTS, 5:00 PM *(Meet for carpool at 5pm at Starbucks, NW corner of Elliot and Priest or meet at the Desert Botanical Garden at 5:30 pm)*

Las Noches de las Luminarias and ***Bruce Munro: Sonoran Light at Desert Botanical Garden***, The Garden will come to life with the soft glow from more than 8,000 hand lit luminaria bags, thousands of white twinkle lights and Munro's vibrant works of art. As you walk the paths with a warm cup of cider, the sounds of hand bells ringing and Mariachis singing will remind you of what the season is all about. *Food and beverage available for an additional charge. For tickets call 480-481-8188 (or order online). Discount of \$5 if ordered before October 31 and use code Use code [Lumi2015](#) before October 31 to receive \$5 off adult tickets (\$25 otherwise). Everyone interested needs to order their tickets in advance (because this event will sell out!)* - Please RSVP by contacting Tim (612-298-6072) or Claudette (973-768-6047) by text.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2016, CITY SCAPES—A MUSICAL TRAVELOGUE, Tempe Center for the Arts (More details to follow)

The Arizona Wind Symphony is presenting a whole season of shows so let's plan to attend this one together. Check it out on their website arizonawindsymphony.com. All shows are held at the [Tempe Center for the Arts](#) at 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway, between Mill and Priest. Tickets are \$9 plus any applicable fees. You can [buy tickets online](#) or at the box office the night of the performance. (Our very own Kerrie Vespaziani plays in the orchestra!)

DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER IS NOVEMBER 15

VUU Women's Group - ALL ARE WELCOME.

Valley UU Women's Group welcomes all to join this friendly gathering for fellowship and sharing. Meeting date for this long standing group is the second Thursday of the month. For November that is the 12th and the subject, always a favorite, is BOOKS. Whether one recently read, an old favorite, one that impressed you favorably or otherwise—fiction or nonfiction--won't you come tell us your choice and why. Need a book, check out the VUU Library open every Sunday for a great selection from which to choose.

Newcomers are always most welcome. It's a great opportunity to get to know one another in a small group setting. We look forward to seeing YOU.

Date and Time: Thursday, November 12, 1:00 p.m.

Place: VUU Board Room (in the Office complex)

Subject: BOOKS

Any questions or for lists of previously chosen books, contact Sally Buntschuh (480)396-6541
bunsc1b@juno.com.

WAYFARERS (VUUW) HAPPY HOOUR

Our Happy HoUUr at Bar Louie in Tempe happened on a day of rain, wind and dust, but a few of us brave souls met and had a good time. Next time we will meet at Pita Jungle, 4921 E. Ray in Ahwatukee. The date is Friday, November 20 and we will start gathering at 4:30 PM. Remember to bring friends. For more information contact Jan Waters at 608-201-2207 or watersjj9790@gmail.com.



Thanksgiving Dinner Invitation



JoAnne Smith is planning to prepare a turkey and dressing for Thanksgiving (November 26) and she is inviting members and friends of VUU to help her eat it and bring other food items to round out the feast. You can call JoAnne at 480 838-5724 or email her at uuismith@aol.com to reserve a place at the table and to indicate what you would like to bring. Seating will be limited, so get your request in early. Proposed time for the feast is 4 p.m. for appetizers followed by the main feast around 5. Directions to the Smith Home can be sent upon request.



CARING AND CONCERNS NEIGHBORHOOD CONTACTS

With the holidays approaching, our lives will get busier and busier. Family and friends can often fall by the wayside at this time. By making a real effort to stay connected, our community will remain a source of support and stress-reduction for our members. If you need assistance with a situation or want to share a joy, call your Neighborhood Contact. We're here and ready to help.

Your Neighborhood Contacts are:

Ahwatukee - Zips: 85040, 85044, 85045, 85048, 85076

Carl Anderson	480-899-4453	canderaz@cox.net
Donna Bennett	480-570-4024	donnaben22@gmail.com
Jennifer Glick	480-220-8063	jennifer.glick@asu.edu

Phoenix, Scottsdale, Glendale, North Tempe- Zips: 85006, 85008, 85014, 85020, 85021, 85022, 85029, 85034, 85037, 85042, 85066, 85250, 85251, 85257, 85268, 85302, 85339, 85274, 85281, 85282, 85285

Lauree Perry	480-839-9296	lperry98@earthlink.net
--------------	--------------	------------------------

Tempe South - Zips: 85283, 85284

DiAnna Farmer	480-413-0293	dianna_farmer@hotmail.com
---------------	--------------	---------------------------

Mesa West - Zips: 85201, 85202, 85210

Mary Jo Bitner	480-831-5518	
Laurel Hardin	480-491-9320	laurelbhardin@gmail.com
Debbe Simpkins	480-831-2915	friendsofdebbe@gmail.com

Mesa East, including Apache Junction:

Zips: 85118, 85203, 85204, 85205, 85206, 85207, 85208, 85209, 85213, 85215, 85217, 85218, 85219, 85220, 85275

Betty Barnes	480-962-1526	bettyjbarnes@cox.net
Joel Sannes	480-464-6772	joelsannes@gmail.com
Diana Woods	480-835-5621	dianawoods@hotmail.com

Gilbert, including Higley - Zips: 85212, 85233, 85234, 85236, 85295, 85296, 85297, 85298

Amy & Michael Morrison	602-881-3724	amy_cccslp@yahoo.com
------------------------	--------------	----------------------

Chandler

North - Zips: 85224, 85226

South, including Sun Lakes, Queen Creek, Casa Grande

Zips: 85122, 85222, 85225, 85123, 85131, 85138, 85139, 85142, 85143, 85239, 85242, 85243, 85244, 85246, 85248, 85249, 85286

Barbara Face	480-961-3223	barbara_face@qwest.net
Stacey Laughrey	480-399-4450	staceylrn@gmail.com
Jacqui Meriweather	480-491-0546	jacquelinea.meriweather@gmail.com
Jane Murray		ellen.bayer47@gmail.com

***We need more Neighborhood Contacts to fully cover all areas. If you would like to help strengthen the bonds of community in our congregation, please contact Lauree Perry (contact info above)

There is a way for your joys and sorrows to be mentioned in the newsletter. Just send an email to caring@vuu.org. You can also request to be contacted by the minister, a Lay Pastoral Associate, and/or your Neighborhood Contact this way.



VUUPOINT is published monthly by the Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation. VUUPOINT is distributed free of charge to members and friends of VUU. The newsletter can also be viewed online at the VUU website www.vuu.org. Articles, announcements and other VUUpoint material may be emailed to: office@vuu.org Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 3rd Sunday of each month. If possible send submissions as an email attachment.

VUU STAFF

The Reverend Andy Burnette, Senior Minister
The Reverend Kellie Walker Hart, Minister of Music
Sue Ringler, Congregation Administrator
Marci Beaudoin, Director of Lifespan Religious Education
Kelsie Beaudoin, Assistant Director of Religious Education
Joe Martin, Maintenance Technician
Aleks Izotov, Pianist

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Janice Miller, President
Barbara Face, Vice President
Paul Schneider, Secretary
DeeAnne McClenahan, Financial Analyst
Melanie Cloonan-Schulte
Ann Sebren
Cliff Allred
David Sheh, Board Rep. to Finance (ex officio)