

VUUPOINT

December 2017



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.

Unless otherwise noted

Whispering Hope

December 3 *Whispering Hope: A Unitarian Universalist Advent* **The Reverend Doctor Andy Burnette**
Both the Adult Choir and the Worship Band perform.

December 10 *The Opposite of Faith: When Hope Doesn't Come* **The Reverend Doctor Andy Burnette**
The Chalice Ringers perform.

December 17 *Hope in the Flesh: Jesus' Political Significance* **The Reverend Doctor Andy Burnette**
The Adult Choir performs, along with a small chamber orchestra.

Thursday, December 21 *The Longest Night Service 7:00PM* (see page 10 for more info)

December 24 10:30 a.m. Service: *Holiday Pageant* **The Reverend Doctor Andy Burnette**
The Chalice Singers perform as part of the Holiday Pageant.

7:00 p.m. Service: *Christmas Eve Service* **The Reverend Doctor Andy Burnette**
The Adult Choir and the Chalice ringers perform.

December 31

Led by Rebecca Riggs

December Events at a Glance

- | | |
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| 12/03 FF Pageant Rehearsal/Crafting
The Board Room | 12/15 Wayfarers Happy HoUr |
| 12/04 Chalice begins
What is the Best Diet for you?
Columbus and Other Cannibals | 12/17 Adopt-a-Family Gifts due
VUUJAZZ Meeting
FF Pageant Rehearsal/Crafting
Great Books Holiday Party
Annual Hanging of the Greens
Newsletter Deadline |
| 12/10 VUUJAZZ Meeting
JASS
Pageant Rehearsal/Crafting | 12/31 FF All Age Game Day |
| 12/13 Christmas Caroling Party | |
| 12/14 EastVUU Meets
N.S.G. Book Club Holiday Party | |

Sundays – Dalai Lama & Friends

VUU's Office will be closed Monday, Dec. 25 through Friday, Dec. 29 and Monday, Jan. 1

VUU Website: <http://www.vuu.org/>

VUU Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/ValleyUU/>

“A Moment with the Minister”



I want to use this month's newsletter column to let you know what will be happening at VUU in January. While I am away for the month, you will hear from local religious leaders who have made an impact for justice here in the valley. It promises to be a month of worship services you won't want to miss.

Maybe you're wondering what I'll be doing while I'm away in January. First, a little background. You may remember that in 2016, I took a three-month sabbatical. Like the vast majority of UU ministers, I earn a month of sabbatical for every year I work. This sabbatical time is intended to be used for renewal and skill-building.

It used to be standard that ministers saved up that time and used it in six-month intervals. That practice has changed over the years, with shorter sabbaticals becoming more common. In part, it was recognized that having the minister gone for six months could be a real hardship on the congregation, and that not all ministers want or need that much time away.

Here at VUU, after I returned from my three-month sabbatical in late 2016, the board and I processed how that time was for both me and the congregation. We decided that we would like to experiment with even shorter and more frequent sabbaticals. To that end, in January 2018 I am going to use the month I earned in 2017. I will be taking a nonprofit leadership course, visiting family in Indiana, and doing lots of reading and planning for the 2018-19 congregational year.

To maintain the quality of worship services, I have invited local colleagues to be guest speakers during the month of January. You will hear from Rabbi John Linder, a religious leader with a history of community organizing. You will also hear from evangelical Christian minister (and frequent social justice ally) Rev. Chris Gonzalez, Rev. Abigail Conley of Chalice Christian Church in Gilbert, and Rev. Joan Crawford, who will present some African-American history and theology in an inviting new way.

I am grateful for the long tradition of sabbatical time for ministers in the liberal religious tradition. These seasons of rest and renewal help me refresh and re-center. I hope this time will also be useful to you. I know my colleagues will be bringing messages that will challenge and inspire. And I look forward to being with you again in February. Until then, holiday blessings to you and yours.

With love,
Rev. Andy

“The best way to not feel hopeless is to get up and do something. Don't wait for good things to happen to you. If you go out and make some good things happen, you will fill the world with hope, you will fill yourself with hope.” Barack Obama

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Dear friends of VUU,

We had an eventful November at VUU. We had a Congregational Conversation in which we discussed board goals for the year, our overall good financial condition, our initial reactions to changes in the UUA dues process coming in 2020, initial VUU Member Survey results, and stewardship campaign planning. During Vision Sunday, the Stewardship Committee held an amazing catered event in which there were 125 households in attendance. The results of this campaign show an increase of 7% (almost \$30k!). Thank you to all of you that contributed to this effort as we “take the next step” in achieving our vision.

On the capital campaign front, our first board goal, a subcommittee has been scheduling meetings with a half-dozen commercial architects to determine the feasibility of adding buildings to our campus. We had our first meeting last week and are excited to see what is possible. As mentioned during the congregational conversation, we plan to present our recommendation at the mid-year meeting on February 4th to move forward with the overall planning process.

During our board meeting this week, we completed our 3rd board goal of creating a board document repository. We finally have a single place to manage board documentation, schedules, and resources. Now we can put all our efforts toward capital campaign and end statement measures.

Speaking of measures, Rev. Dr. Andy is leading the board through a book study on just that. It’s not just numbers and figures, but it is also the stories within the congregation and the wider community that help us measure our progress. This will be good to keep in mind as we begin to look at putting specific measures in place over the rest of this year.

We also appointed Musette Steger as our new secretary. Thank you, Musette, for accepting! She will be taking over the new role after she completes the final report on the VUU Member Survey by the end of the year. The survey report will be made available to the congregation as well.

Finally, as mentioned at the congregational conversation, the UUA is changing the way dues are calculated for congregations. As proposed, this will be a significant increase in how much we would contribute to the UUA on a yearly basis. Although we have until 2019 for this to take effect, the finance team and board have already started a dialogue with the UUA to review concerns and suggestions. We are also taking actions to reach out to other AZ congregations and develop an appropriate response for VUU to ensure financial stability. Expect more to come on this in future congregational meetings.

Warm regards,
Paul Schneider
 President
 VUU Board of Trustees

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

Faith Formation Ministry December 2017

Special dates to remember:



Dec 3rd, 10th & 17th - Children and youth start in the education complex (skip the sanctuary) sign in at the gate, preschool – 5th grade meet in rooms 1 & 2, 6th-8th graders meet in office complex, high schoolers in room 5. Pageant rehearsal & craft making.



December 17th - Annual Hanging of the Greens, 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. We will start with a potluck soup lunch (bring your soup in a crockpot – don't forget to include a card with soup name and identify as omnivore, vegetarian, vegan, gluten free etc.) then we will put up and decorate the sanctuary Christmas tree and hang greens around the sanctuary. Bring any ornaments you want to lend to our tree (collect them after the service on the 24th.)



Sunday, December 24th - Holiday Pageant during 10:30 a.m. worship service



Dec 31st - All age game day

Don't forget Chalica begins on the first Monday in December – this year Dec. 4th, and lasts 7 days. Each day [a chalice](#) is lit and the day is spent reflecting on the meaning of that day's principle and doing a good deed that honors that principle.

For more information on Chalica: [Chalica Face Book page](#), [UU world article](#) a blog from [Parents Beyond Belief](#) and many Chalica-themed [videos on YouTube](#).

NEW OUR WHOLE LIVES CLASS, BEGINNING JANUARY 21ST



OUR WHOLE LIVES for "Spectacled Owls" Kindergarten & 1st graders Children & Parents' Combo Class

This class will address topics, such as anatomy, family structures, how babies are made and safe touch. Parents are in the class with their child as active participants. The goal is to open communication within the family, because parents are a child's primary sexuality educator.

**Mandatory Orientation for Children and Parents: Sunday, January 21 from 12:30-3:30 p.m.
Room 2, complimentary childcare available upon request.**

SCHEDULE: Sunday mornings in Room 2 from 9-10 a.m. January 28 through April 15 (*class will NOT meet on 2/18, 3/11, 3/18 or 4/1*). Snack will be provided. This is a covenanted class, and full attendance is expected. Each class has a homework assignment.

COST: \$25 per VUU Child (\$35 per non-member) & 2 books: \$13 & \$15 Fees are non-refundable, due at orientation. **TO REGISTER:** Sign-up online at <http://www.vuu.org/edu/whole-lives-human-sexuality-classes-offered-2017-2018/>, at the Faith Formation welcome table, or contact Marci Beaudoin, VUU DFF at faithform@vuu.org or 480-899-4249.

OUR WHOLE LIVES (OWL) is an age-appropriate, yet comprehensive sexuality education program developed by the Unitarian Universalists. It engages children in activities that help them to clarify their values and teaches communication and decision-making skills. It encourages children to value themselves and to act on their values throughout their lives.

Whooh! Whooh? YOU! Please spread the word! Non-members are welcome to join.

ONGOING ADULT FAITH FORMATION OFFERINGS

Great Books discussion group

The VUU Great Books Reading and Discussion Group will take a reading break in December in order to gather for our Christmas potluck. All are invited to Kevin's home for dinner, conversation, and Christmas cheer. We will be talking about what series of readings we would like to tackle next. The potluck will be Sunday, December 17, at 5p.m.

Please contact Kevin Erdmann at kebko@yahoo.com if you have any questions or need directions.

What is the best diet for me?



A research and discussion group facilitated by Jerry Waters. Group meets 7 p.m. – 9 p.m., on the 1st Mondays of each month, in the board room in the Valley UU office building.

On December 4th we will begin by sharing one of our favorite recipes. Next we will discuss The China Study and its potential effects. In the 70's and 80's work was done in 65 counties in China. This massive project involved Cornell, the University of Oxford and the Chinese Academy of Preventative Medicine. The object was to correlate nutrition and health. How can our diet affect our health? How can we avoid disease by eating more properly? Diet has been shown to greatly reduce our chances of catching many of the prevalent diseases of the West. It has the ability to reverse many such conditions. Meet with us and look at the evidence.

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 9-10 a.m. 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 a.m. - 9 a.m. We are done at 10 a.m. - plenty of time to get to the VUU service! ...questions? Just email DavidBlackDLF@gmail.com

Child care is available at 8:30 a.m. in the room next door, #6

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

We will meet on **December 14 at 7:00 p.m.** 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 2018. 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.

Spirit of Life Reading Circle

Spirit of Life Reading Circle meets once a month to discuss theological issues of interest to Unitarian Universalists. We send out links to the articles for the month, which everyone reads before the meeting and they form the basis for our discussion, after we have a short check-in to see how everyone is doing. Despite the old saw that you should never publicly discuss religion or politics, this is a place that exists for us to discuss religious issues that illuminate our principles and our lives.

No December meeting. Our schedule for 2018: January 25, February 22, March 22, April 26, and May 24.

Email maryloganrothschild@gmail.com to get on our mailing list. Our group is open and welcoming, and we'd love to see you join us!

Mary Rothschild, Rebecca Riggs and Anne Schneider.

COLUMBUS AND OTHER CANNIBALS

"Why is the dominant culture so excruciatingly, relentlessly, insanely, genocidally, ecocidally, suicidally destructive?" (Jack D. Forbes) Come explore with us the nativist concept of Wétiko, a contagious disease of the soul that Forbes claims has infected most of the world. It's evidenced by aggression and violence, hate and greed, and consumes everything, including people's lives.

What can we do to inoculate or cure ourselves? What can we do for the rest of the world? Let's talk about it. We'll meet on the 1st Monday of every month, November through May (except January) at 7:00 p.m. in the VUU conference room. It's a small room so attendance will be limited.

To sign up contact Jayne Burgess at Jayne@JayneBurgess.com, Jerry Gnoza at Jerry.Gnoza@gmail.com, or Jessica Gnoza at Jessica.McCulla@gmail.com.



Rockdale Wreaths for Sale
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- Order as gifts for friends and family - don't forget yourself!
- Input address for direct shipment
- Decide on the ship date that works best for you!

Give the gift of the smell of Christmas!

In Faith,

Please note the change in my email address: faithform@vuu.org

Marci Beaudoin, Director Faith Formation ministry

Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation

MUSIC & MORE

Everyone is invited to the annual **CHRISTMAS CAROLING PARTY** on Wed. December 13, meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. This is sponsored by the Chalice Singers, VUU's Children's Choir, and both kids (all ages) and adults are invited to join us. We will carol around the neighborhood, then meet back in the sanctuary kitchen for holiday treats.

NO Holiday Orchestra this year! Because Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year, we are doing our annual RE Children's Pageant that morning at the 10:30 a.m. service, which is the event the Holiday Orchestra normally plays for. And unfortunately, this date won't work with our wonderful volunteer director's schedule and other dates won't work with our worship schedule. However, there may be an opportunity to play in an Interfaith Orchestra/Band later in the spring, so stay posted for more info about that possibility!

CHOIR MUSIC: On Sunday December 17 in the worship service, the Adult Choir will be singing John Rutter's *Candlelight Carol* with a small chamber orchestra. John Rutter, the renowned British composer and director of the Cambridge Singers, says he wrote this piece in 1984 as a result of a conversation at a choral convention in Pittsburgh. The director of a Catholic church said to him "we're only a small choir, nothing special, but we'd love you to write us a carol featuring the Virgin Mary." He was moved by this request and when working on the piece an image of Geertgen's painting "Nativity at Night" (c. 1490) came to his mind. This painting hangs in the National Gallery in London and shows a dark stable with Mary gazing down at the crib where Jesus is radiating a miraculous light, illuminating her face and a group of kneeling angels. Check it out at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nativity_at_Night

In the text of his carol the supernatural light became candlelight, but as Mr. Rutter says, "carols have never been noted for literal accuracy!"

At the 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Service the choir will be singing a piece that pairs *The Little Drummer Boy* with another Christmas song titled *Peace on Earth*. They will also be singing a lovely Christmas Lullaby, which includes the words: "Somewhere a rose is blooming, somewhere a candle is lighting, somewhere a sleeping, sleeping on earth." The Bell Choir will also be playing an arrangement of the German Carol, *Still, Still, Still*.

Mark your calendars now, as the musical duo **Emma's Revolution** is coming on **Saturday February 10th**! They will be giving a workshop on writing justice music and harmonizing in the early afternoon, with a concert in our sanctuary that evening, at 7:30 p.m.. Stay tuned for further details.

And remember, all of our **CHOIRS** always accept new members!

Chalice Singers (Grade K-6) rehearse Wednesdays 6:15 -7 p.m. (Sanctuary Kitchen, but they are off on Dec. 6 & then Dec. 27-Jan. 17, resuming rehearsals on Jan. 24)

Chalice Ringers (Bell Choir) rehearse Wednesdays 6 to 7:15 p.m. (Sanctuary-off on Dec. 27)

Adult Choir rehearses Wednesdays 7:30 to 9 p.m. (Sanctuary -off on Dec. 27)

-Rev. Kellie Walker Hart (music@vuu.org)

The next **Journey to Membership** Session will be:
Sunday, February 11, noon to 3:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

VUU COMMUNITY

2018 **FUUNd** Together

FUUNd Together is more than just a fundraiser, it is also a *wonderful* opportunity to spend time with each other and strengthen our VUU community. But don't just take my word for it! Here is what VUU member and **FUUNd** lover Pat Flahart has to say.

*I LOVE the **FUUNd Together** activities – the ones that I have sponsored – Superstition Mountains Hike and drive to my “special secret place” with lunch; Women’s High Tea; baked items, and ones I have purchased. Friendships and even romances have developed from **FUUNd Together** activities. What a marvelous way to share one’s talents, interests, and enjoyments with VUU Participants.*

Won't you please consider joining the **FUUNd** next year by hosting a meal, hike, party or special event, teaching a skill to others, sharing your artistic, baking or musical talents, or maybe offering your vacation home for a weekend? Stop by the **FUUNd** table after the service and we'll be happy to provide more ideas.

We can't wait to have **FUUNd with you!!**



VUU Lay Pastoral Care Educational Offering

Beginning in January 2018, the VUU Lay Pastoral Care Associates will be sponsoring an adult education program titled *Facing Death with Life*. This program facilitates a process of personal reflection, learning and spiritual growth focused on the topic of death and dying. It brings death and dying and grief into the light of our daily lives and out of the dark area of our lives to which we often relegate it. This program is not a grief support group, nor is it an intellectual study of death. It includes sociological information and reflection, theological learning, personal and shared narrative, creative expression, journaling and practical learning and preparation. It helps us to move from viewing death as an abstract concept to developing a personal recognition of its meaning in our lives. This program invites participants to experience death and dying as a healthy part of life, including preparation, grieving and living on.

We will be offering some resources on popular topics which were requested in our Lay Pastoral Care survey last year like advance directives and completing or updating our life crisis forms.

This educational offering will be provided in 3 sessions - January 21st, 2018 - February 4th – February 18th. Reverend Andy will co-lead the last two sessions. Each session will be about 2 hours each, being held from 12noon – 2 p.m. It is meant to be offered as a series so if you register, please plan to attend all 3 classes. You won't want to miss out on any of these classes! The time will be after church and the first class will meet in the Sanctuary and second & third classes will meet in Room 5.

A table will be set up outside after the December 17th service to share information concerning this program.

Please sign up by emailing office@vuu.org or call the church office 480-899-4249 and let Sue Ringler know that you plan to attend. You can also sign up at the January 14th service.

VUU SOCIAL ACTION MINISTRY

Promoting Social, Economic and Environmental Justice

VOLUNTEER NEEDED: We need 1 or 2 additional people to help with Christmas collections for our Afghanistan refugee family (see below). If you are interested in helping, please contact Cynthia Riley crriley1910@gmail.com or Willa Cree at socialaction@vuu.org.

Plans for Holiday Programs:

This year, VUU will be supporting 2 different families for Christmas. As in the past, Lauree Perry and Frank Quijada will be coordinating the collection for a family through "Save the Family". In addition, we are adopting a refugee family from Afghanistan; this effort is being coordinated by Cynthia Riley. We are now a large enough congregation that we feel that we can provide for 2 families this holiday season. Below is information about both programs. Thank you for opening your hearts to others not as lucky as we are!

SAVE THE FAMILY: ADOPT A FAMILY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Valley UU Congregation will again be adopting a family from the Save the Family Foundation for this holiday season. This year, it's a mom and 3 young sons. The eldest are twins and they have a younger brother.

REFUGEE FAMILY AID FOR THE HOLIDAYS

This year, we have the opportunity to help a refugee family from Afghanistan. Our family is made up of a mother, father and 3 young children.

Both programs began November 26th, with tables outside the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. With many people from our congregation participating, we should be able to ensure a very happy holiday season for both families!

If you do choose to participate, all gifts must be new, wrapped, and returned to VUU by December 17th. For more information, please contact Lauree Perry at Lperry98@earthlink.net, Frank Quijada at Frank.quijada@gmail.com or Cynthia Riley at crriley1910@gmail.com

Paz de Cristo needs YOU

Are you a UU looking for another way to help others who are less fortunate? Are your students in need of community service volunteer hours? Make a commitment to help feed the hungry at Paz de Cristo on a second Friday in December and January. Each month, VUU needs 20 volunteers to satisfy our long running commitment to this wonderful charity. [Please check here for availability and sign up](#) – we'd love to serve with you! Send questions to pazdecristo@vuu.org



I-HELP (Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program) needs your HELP!



Would you like to know more about this important ministry? Do you want to get involved? Do you just love washing sheets!?! I'm sure we can find something for you to do so contact Sue at office@vuu.org We will serve the evening meal to our I-HELP guest on Monday, Dec. 11. Click on this link and sign up to bring something and to serve!
<https://m.signupgenius.com/#/showSignUp/4090a44adaf22a13-december2>

I-HELP guests need feminine hygiene items, sunscreen, razors and deodorant. Bring your donations with you on Sunday and leave them in the collection area in the Sanctuary foyer.

Thank you for Supporting the VUU Social Action Ministry

If you have ideas, comments or questions about these or other Social Action projects, please contact Willa Cree, socialaction@vuu.org

Library Notes



The Not So Great Books Club just read, Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult. We thought it would be a great addition to our library. Ruth, a dedicated African American nurse, is accused of causing the death of a newborn baby, the child of white supremacist parents. Each chapter is narrated by a different character. Through Ruth's thoughts we get a glimpse of what it would be like to be a black woman in our white society. Through Turk's thoughts we hear the very disturbing bigoted ideas and actions of a racist. Kennedy, the white woman lawyer, struggles to win her first murder trial without mentioning race while the entire case hinges on it.

The book is in the Fiction section located next to the library's exit door.

"Hope is a pocket of possibility. I'm holding it in my hand." Tahereh Mafi

THE LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

The holiday season is often hectic, and may be an especially difficult time for many people. Painful memories from the past can come to the forefront when we least expect it. If you, or someone you love, is struggling with grief, the loss of a loved one, divorce, illness, depression, job loss, or other issues; or are just overwhelmed by the chaos of the season, please plan to attend this quiet, meaningful service.

This "Longest Night" gathering is a calming service recognizing that we are all connected; no one is alone. It provides a safe space where those mixed emotions can be acknowledged; and peace, and comfort brought into the lives of those in need. It offers hope for the holidays.

Please join us at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday December 21st in the Sanctuary of Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation. All are welcome. There are flyers in the Sanctuary for this service. We encourage people to take one (or more) and pass them on to any family, friends, colleagues, etc., for whom the service may be meaningful.



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 December 2017 are:

10 to 19 Years:

Tom and Margareta Briggs
Mike McBeath

30 to 39 Years:

Rey Bergelin
June Dykstra
Rebecca Riggs

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

Dear friends and members of VUU. How do you get your information about what's going on at VUU? Which communication tool is YOUR favorite?

Please answer this one question survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3HXKTD8>

WE'RE MOVING UP IN THE WORLD!

Thanks to Byon Garrabrant, Mike Anderson, and Jim Horton for replacing our sanctuary screen projector



... using our new collapsible scaffolding provided by three generous donors.



Do you know a VUUser who deserves a big Thank You?

Email: volunteer@vuu.org.



“Unitarian Universalism is a faith in people, hope for tomorrow’s child, confidence in a continuity that spans all times. It looks not to a perfect heaven but toward a good earth. It is respectful of the past, but not limited to it. It is trust in growing and conspiracy with change. It is spiritual responsibility for a moral tomorrow.” Edward Schemp



Tempe Interfaith Fellowship Thanksgiving Service hosted by VUU. If you would like to sign the Pledge you can go to <http://tinyurl.com/tipledge2017> If you would like to purchase the *Hate Has No Home Here* sign, check after Services on Sundays during December.



EVENTS



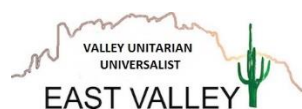
First Sunday of each month, (unless there is a congregational meeting that same day) stop by "The Board Room", held in the sanctuary after Sunday service, for an informal chat with members of the VUU Board of Trustees. Your questions and comments are welcome!

JASS

Jam Acoustic Second Sunday (JASS) happens every second Sunday in the Sanctuary. Following in the VUU tradition, "all instruments are welcome here" (though it is generally an acoustic, non-amplified group).

VUUJAZZ

"Coffee, conversation, current events and politics." All are welcome to share concerns about the health of our government and our politics in the sanctuary on December 10 & 17 from noon to 1:00 p.m.



EastVUUs

VUU members & friends living in the East Valley are invited to join with us in Mesa on Thursday evening, December 14 @ 6 p.m. potluck & 7Pm program.

Bring a potluck item & your tableware for fellowship and fun. No need to RSVP but if you have questions, contact Sharon Kopina @ 1004slk1950@gmail.com or 815-252-2528

This month we are thrilled to have Rev Dr. Andy Burnette with us for an informal discussion about social justice and the Valley Interfaith Project.

The East VUU group formed in 2017 for fellowship, faith development and community-based action. We belong to VUU, and seek to provide more connections for UU residents of Mesa, Apache Junction and Gold Canyon.

Location: Apache Wells Community Center Bldg. in the Maricopa room. Follow the main entrance signs to 2215 N 56th Street, Mesa

Wayfarers

Wayfarers Happy HoUUr on Friday, Dec. 15, will be in Ahwatukee at Va Bene. This is a new venue for us and comes with enthusiastic recommendations. The address is [4647 E. Chandler Blvd., Phoenix](http://4647.E.ChandlerBlvd.Phoenix). Please let Jan Waters know if you plan to attend: text or call 608-201-2207 or email: watersij9790@gmail.com.

NO WOMEN'S GROUP MEETING IN DECEMBER:

There will be no meeting in December. Because we meet in the sanctuary and there are numerous special holiday events in December, there is no place for us to meet. We will meet on our regular fourth Sunday in January; January 28, 2018.

VUU Singles

Saturday December 16 Singles Holiday Party at Renee's House.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR JANUARY IS DECEMBER 17

Unveil the Mystery of Service to VUU
Saturday, January 20, 2018,
8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., Board Room and Room 1 & 2

You are cordially invited to join the Leadership Development Committee as we take an in-depth look at what motivates us to serve in an elected position here at VUU. Come hear members of the Board, Special Funds, Leadership Development, and recent General Assembly Delegates share how serving in office has brought them joy, strengthened their connection to our VUU community, and furthered their spiritual growth. More information to follow.

The Gilded Age Meets Downton Abbey.

Cora, of Downton Abbey fame, is the inspiration for this journey. She was based on the American heiresses who arrived in England during the late 1800s and married for love or to rescue a great estate in distress. We will focus on some of these heiresses, while we explore their homes and visit Downton Abbey film sites. Highclere Castle was the home of heiress Lady Almina Carnarvon, and was also used as the fictional home of Cora. American Consuelo Vanderbilt married the 9th Duke of Marlborough and saved Blenheim Palace with her fortune. Another heiress, Jennie Jerome, married the 8th Duke of Marlborough's brother, and gave birth to Winston Churchill there. The great-grandmother of Diana the Princess of Wales, was an American Heiress and the future kings of England are her descendants.

We'll stay for 5 nights in my favourite English city, Oxford - the unique university town of amazing bookstores, unusual architecture, historic pubs, and eclectic free museums. We see where JRR Tolkien met with the *Inklings*, Lewis Carroll dreamed up *Alice in Wonderland*, CS Lewis had a magical wardrobe, Inspector Morse solved many crimes, and Bill Clinton didn't inhale. Two nights in the Midlands and one in London complete our itinerary.

The challenge of this journey is that Highclere Castle and Althorp House aren't posting their opening times for 2018 until October, and we can't ask for tickets before then. At that time we can confirm the dates and the finalized itinerary and costs. We are aiming for May or September 2018. The journey will be mindful, fun, and informative, with some time for you to explore your interests – especially in Oxford. Email beverlz@me.com or see <https://nuuc.ca/spiritual-growth/spiritual-practice/mindful-journeys/> or <http://bevertz.wix.bevertzjourneys>

Mindful Journey to India

Join us in 2018 on a Mindful Journey to India! India has become a favourite destination for Mindful Journey's and we have brought it back by popular demand. This is an opportunity to travel with other U.U.'s and to enjoy the wonder and colours of India. Daily meditations and evening reflections help us to experience our travel more fully.

Please contact me if you would like an itinerary of the trip and information about Mindful Journey's. I will gladly send you our ebooklet of Mindful Journey's from 2006 to 2016 with comments and stories from our travellers.

Contact: Joan Walder email: saranac2@gmail.com

CARING AND CONCERNS NEIGHBORHOOD CONTACTS

As the old year ends and the new one begins, please let us know if there's something we can do to help you feel supported and connected. Perhaps invite someone over who may be missing their own family. If we all look out for one another, this will be a wonderful season!

If there's a situation coming up you'll need help with, or you have a joy to share, contact your Neighborhood Contact. We're ready to be of assistance.

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

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Donna Bennett	480-570-4024	donnaben22@gmail.com

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Chandler

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South, including Sun Lakes, Queen Creek, Casa Grande

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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.

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

Reverend Doctor Andy Burnette, Senior Minister
Reverend Kellie Walker Hart, Minister of Music
Marci Beaudoin, Director of Faith Formation
Sue Ringler, Congregation Administrator
Joe Martin, Maintenance Technician
Jill Khaleghi, pianist

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