

# VUUPOINT

# February 2018



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.

VUU Website: <http://www.vuu.org/> VUU Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/ValleyUU/>

#### *February's Theme - Love is the Widest Circle*

**February 4 *Do I Really Love Pizza? The Limits of the Language of Love.*** The Rev. Dr. Andy Burnette  
 The Worship Band and guest pianist Jack Wisniewski provide music.

**February 11 *Following Love's Call: Emma Eliza Bailey's Universalist Story.*** The Rev. Dr. Andy Burnette  
 The duo Emma's Revolution provides music, with help from the Adult Choir.

**February 18** **Guest Minister**  
 The Chalice Ringers provide music.

**February 25 *The Other Side of Love: Grieving as Connection*** **The Rev. Dr. Andy Burnette**  
 The Adult Choir provides music. New Members are welcomed.

#### Events at a Glance

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 2/03 A Climate (for) Change               | 2/12 What's the Best Diet for You?             |
| 2/04 <b>FUUNd</b> Bidding Begins          | 2/15 N.S.G. Book Club                          |
| <b>Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting</b> | 2/16 Wayfarer's Happy HoUUr                    |
| VUU Singles Super Bowl Party              | 2/17 Women4Women                               |
| Voices Lifted Rehearsal                   | 2/18 LGBTQI Exploratory Social Justice Meeting |
| 2/05 Columbus and Other Cannibals         | Newsletter Deadline                            |
| 2/07 Environmental Day at the Legislature | 2/19 UU "Day at the Legislature"               |
| 2/08 EastVUU's Potluck/Meeting            | 2/22 Spirit of Life Reading Circle             |
| 2/10 Emma's Revolution Workshop & Concert | 2/24 Jane Murray Memorial                      |
| VUU Singles Potluck                       | 2/25 Women's Group                             |
| 2/11 Journey to Membership                | Great Books Discussion Group                   |
| Social Justice Coffee Conversations       |  |
| Voices Lifted Rehearsal                   |  |

Sundays – Dalai Lama & Friends

Wednesdays – Adult Choir, Chalice Singer & Chalice Ringers Rehearsals

*Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,  
 I am the dream and the hope of the slave.*

*I rise  
 I rise  
 I rise*

– Maya Angelou, "Still I rise," *And Still I Rise* (1978).

## Let's Have **FUUNd** Together! The Bidding Starts February 4<sup>th</sup>!!

Get ready to have **FUUNd** in 2018 and 2019! Thanks to your amazing generosity, the coming year is filled with opportunities to dine, hike, create, celebrate, learn and grow with friends both old and new. Beginning on Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> and continuing throughout the month, the **FUUNd** auction tables will be set up on the patio after the worship service. Get your bidder number, place your bids, and join the **FUUNd**.



(The **FUUNd** Together auction is the largest annual fundraiser here at VUU. All donations support our congregation's mission of service, justice and love.)

### *Fun at the FUUNd Greek Dinner Party*



## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The Board has been busy working on supporting the actualization of the vision, mission, and ends that you have established for the congregation, and specifically on our Board priorities. Toward those ends, we are excited to present a comprehensive update at the **February 4 semi-annual congregational meeting**, immediately after the service. To ensure we can make the most of our time together, we will be providing pizza for all who can attend. The meeting, as always, is open to everyone, and we look forward to engaging conversation.

We will provide an update on the congregation's finances (spoiler alert: all is well!); the 2018 operating budget pledge drive (spoiler alert: all went well, but there is follow up to be completed before we can finalize a budget for the upcoming fiscal year – if you have not made a pledge yet, please help us get there by visiting GIVE on the [yuu.org](http://yuu.org) webpage); the UUA dues changes update; and our path toward providing more and better space for this congregation to grow and thrive.

With our vision and mission in mind, The Board has been discussing possibilities for the future by reviewing the current valuation of our campus and opportunities for buying/selling to relocate to a larger space, by discussing opportunities for seeding or creating a second congregation in the east valley, by meeting with congregational leadership for input on these ideas, and by engaging architects to open discussion on improving our current campus and/or building additional facilities on our property.

These are big decisions, and the Board would like your individual and collective input on February 4, and as we walk the path between then and our Annual Meeting in June to present to you a preliminary plan for our future.

If this all seems important to you, and/or you'd like to break bread (pizza) with your friends, please join us Sunday, February 4, at 11:45 in the sanctuary for lunch and open discussion.

Yours in service,  
DeeAnne McClenahan, Vice President

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



"We look forward to the time  
when the Power of Love  
will replace the Love of Power.  
Then will our world know  
the blessings of peace." William E. Gladstone

Photo by [Tim Marshall](#) on [Unsplash](#)

## Faith Formation Ministry February 2018

### 2018 Multi-Generational Service Trip to Agua Prieta, Mexico



Don't miss the opportunity to join our bi-annual service trip to build houses in the barrio of Agua Prieta, Mexico. We leave VUU at 8 am on Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup> and return Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup> in the late afternoon.

**VOLUNTEER**

Applications are available on the VUU website, use the Service trip tab

<http://www.vuu.org/edu/multi-generational-service-trip/>

Fundraising opportunities are available to offset the cost of the trip.

**Save the date!! March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Annual Italian Dinner,**

in the education courtyard, 5:30 p.m. & 7 p.m. seatings.

Hosted by the Agua Prieta service trip.



Looking forward to a year filled with amazing opportunities,

Marcé Beaudoin, Director of Faith Formation ministry

## ONGOING ADULT FAITH FORMATION OFFERINGS

### 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 8:30-9. Done at 10 - plenty of time to get to the VUU service! ...questions? Just email [DavidBlackDLF@gmail.com](mailto:DavidBlackDLF@gmail.com)

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

### 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.

Our schedule for early 2018: February 22, March 29, April 26, and May 24.

Email [maryloganrothschild@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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

The N.S.G. Book Club is open to all members, visitors, and friends of VUU who enjoy reading and discussing a variety of books. We meet once a month at the home of Johnnie Godfrey in Tempe (near Baseline Rd. and the 101).

The next meeting will be on February 15 at 7:15 p.m. The book is In the Country We Love by Diane Guerrero. This the true story of the actress (she is in *Orange is the New Black*) born and raised in the Boston area. Her parents were deported when she was 14 years old. The book illustrates the struggles of the undocumented.

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

## **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, February through May at 7:00 p.m. in the VUU Board Room.

To sign up contact Jayne Burgess at [Jayne@JayneBurgess.com](mailto:Jayne@JayneBurgess.com) Jerry Gnoza at [Jerry.Gnoza@gmail.com](mailto:Jerry.Gnoza@gmail.com) or Jessica Gnoza at [Jessica.McCulla@gmail.com](mailto:Jessica.McCulla@gmail.com)

## **What is the best diet for me?**



A research and discussion group facilitated by Jerry Waters.

On February 12 at 7 p.m. the Best Diet for Me discussion group meets in the VUU Conference Room. We will be discussing the "Blue Zones" and the work of Dan Buettner.

There are areas of the world where people live appreciably longer, some 12 years longer than the average lifespan in the US. Many are lucky to live vigorously more than 100 years. While we can't all do that, many lifestyle components like a plant-based diet foster longevity. Purpose-driven lives fulfill us. Social support and even moderate amounts of alcohol may help us enjoy our lives. Active lifestyles provide regular "exercise" that sustains us. Come listen to the stories of remarkable people.

## **Great Books discussion group**

In February, the VUU Great Books Reading and Discussion Group will meet on Sunday February 25, in classroom 5, from 7-9 p.m. This month we are discussing "Longing" by Amos Oz. All are welcome! Contact Kevin Erdmann at [kebko@yahoo.com](mailto:kebko@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.

## MUSIC & MORE



**Saturday Feb 10th**  
**Concert 7:30pm**

*February Choir Festival*  
Music & Social Justice Workshop 2-4pm  
Valley Unitarian Universalist  
6400 W Del Rio St, Chandler

Concert \$18 adv/\$22 door  
Workshop (incl. lunch) \$15  
Concert & Workshop \$30

Tickets & Info: [music@vuu.org](mailto:music@vuu.org), (480) 899-4249

[emmasrevolution.com](http://emmasrevolution.com)

For tickets: <https://www.emmasrevolution.com/concerts>

**The duo EMMA'S REVOLUTION is here on Saturday February 10<sup>th</sup>!**

Tickets available separately for their workshop (2-4 p.m., on justice songs, \$15) and concert (7:30 p.m., \$18) or both for \$30 at [vuu.org](http://vuu.org). Concert tickets are more at the door. The choir is providing a lunch potluck at 12:30 with a short vocal workshop with Jill Khaleghi at 1:15, free to those purchasing a workshop ticket.

**STREET REQUIEM:** This fantastic new piece will be the focus of our annual All-Music Services this year, scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup> at the UU Congregation of Phoenix and March 25<sup>th</sup> at the VUU Sunday morning service. This year there will also be an additional performance at Tempe First United Methodist Church, 215 E. University Dr., Tempe, on Sunday April 8<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM. Written in honor and memory of those who live and die on the streets, we hope to have some of our interfaith partners and I-HELP clients participate by singing with us or attending this community concert.

STREET REQUIEM uses traditional text from the musical form of the Catholic mass, along with more modern language and musical styles ranging from Celtic to South African to pop. Through these performances we hope to bring attention to issues related to homelessness and what resources are being used to address current needs (such as the I-HELP program, which VUU hosts in our sanctuary on most Monday evenings).

**The CHALICE SINGERS** (VUU's Children's Choir) has started rehearsing again on Wednesday evenings from 6:15 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the sanctuary kitchen. Open to kids K through about 6<sup>th</sup> grade, they sing for the Sunday morning service about once a month and practice through mid-May. Please contact me (Rev. Kellie) if you are interested in having your child participate.

**VOICES LIFTED SINGERS** is a group of women who sing in community settings such as nursing homes and at bedside for those recovering from surgery or illness or who are in hospice care. Rehearsals are 1:30 to 3:00 at VUU (room varies) on the following Sundays: -Feb. 4 & 25, March 11 & 25, April 22, and May 6 & 20

The next **JOURNEY TO MEMBERSHIP SESSION** is on Sunday February 11<sup>th</sup> from noon to 3:30 p.m. in the VUU sanctuary. If you have been attending Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation and are interested in membership, learning more about Unitarian Universalism, VUU, and meeting other newcomers, this is for you! Register by emailing the office at [office@vuu.org](mailto:office@vuu.org). Lunch and babysitting provided if requested in advance.

-Rev. Kellie Walker Hart, Minister of Music (contact me at [music@vuu.org](mailto:music@vuu.org))

*The opposite of love is not hate, it's  
indifference.  
-Elie Wiesel-*



# VUU COMMUNITY

## VUU SOCIAL ACTION MINISTRY

### Promoting Social, Economic and Environmental Justice

#### Environmental Day at the Legislature – AZ Power and Light – February 7

Join in at the AZ Capitol from 9 a.m. -1 p.m. AZIPL will host a prayer circle at 12 noon in the Rose Garden. For more information, contact Karen Stucke, [kjstucke@gmail.com](mailto:kjstucke@gmail.com)

#### Next Social Justice Coffee Conversations, February 11, 11:45 on the patio

For more information, contact Anne Schneider, at [anne.schneider1941@gmail.com](mailto:anne.schneider1941@gmail.com)

#### Opportunity to help Women4Women Tempe – Saturday, Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>, 9-11 a.m.

Women4Women Tempe was one of the organizations that the offering went to from the Thanksgiving Interfaith service, held at Valley UU this past November. Their mission is to provide bags containing feminine hygiene products to homeless and low-income women. They believe these items should be available to those who need them, and that women shouldn't have to choose between perhaps buying food or these necessities.

We'll be putting together the bags from 9am to 11am on Saturday February 17<sup>th</sup> in the Board and Conference rooms in the office building. There are several ways to help:

1. Come and help make the bags on the 17<sup>th</sup>
2. Donate items to make the bags (tampons, sanitary napkins, panty liners, feminine wipes, 2oz size hand sanitizer)
3. Donate money to purchase the above items. Willa Cree or Lauree Perry will cheerfully accept your donations.

We'll provide the bags, beverages and snacks. Please feel free to bring something to share. (Of course, both women and men are welcome.) Let's have fun getting together and getting to know each other while helping others in our larger community.

#### LGBTQI Exploratory Social Justice Group Meeting – Feb. 18, Board Room, 12:00

There is no group at VUU that looks specifically at LGBTQI political and social justice issues. The question is "Do we need one?" This meeting is to determine if we are meeting the needs of our community or if we need to do more. Please attend if you are interested in this topic. For more information, contact Willa Cree, [socialaction@vuu.org](mailto:socialaction@vuu.org)

#### UU "DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE!" SIGN UP NOW.

The UUJAZ annual "Day at The Legislature" will be held **Monday, Feb. 19** at the Capitol. You can sign up NOW at the Social Justice Table (outside, on the patio), or at this link <https://goo.gl/forms/dPdJQNh0K4Q52nEj1>. If that link doesn't work for you, send a note to [legislativeadvocacy@vuu.org](mailto:legislativeadvocacy@vuu.org)

Most of us will be able to:

- meet with Legislators from our own district and let them know what we are especially passionate about (and build a relationship)
- attend a committee meeting
- participate in one of THREE workshops this year led by UU members, including "request to speak" and other information on how to be a more effective advocate
- be introduced from the galley
- visit with UUs from all over the state!

You won't need to go alone to see your Legislator! You won't need to read anyone else's talking points! This is an opportunity for you to talk to a Legislator about things that are really important to you. You do NOT need to be an expert! Please register and let us know whether you can come or not!!

Continued

**Paz de Cristo needs YOU**

Are you a UU looking for another way to help others who are less fortunate? Make a commitment to help feed the hungry at Paz de Cristo on a second Friday in February and March. 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](mailto:pazdecristo@vuu.org)

**Paz de Cristo – Donations for February – Pasta (any type)**

Please support our focus charity, Paz de Cristo, by bringing in a donation of pasta. Drop your donation in the collection box located in the foyer of the sanctuary. With your help, we can do our part to restock the shelves at Paz de Cristo to make sure they do not run out of this staple that is always in demand.

Gift cards for groceries and gas are welcome and will continue to be collected throughout the year. They can be placed in the lock box on the wall above the collection box. Fry's gift cards are especially appreciated because they give Paz the flexibility to get either gas or groceries.

**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? We really need to straighten out our corner of the VUU Storage Unit off the Sanctuary. Do you like organizing space and fearlessly getting rid of 'stuff'?! I'm sure we can find something for you to do so contact Sue at [office@vuu.org](mailto:office@vuu.org) **Thanks to EVERYONE who donated socks for our I-HELP guests! They were thrilled. Keep 'em coming! If you haven't had a chance to pick up a pack of socks yet, it's not too late! We are also collecting shoe laces.**

**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](mailto:socialaction@vuu.org)

**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 February 2018 are:

**10-19 Years***Nancy Egly**Laurie Fagen**Terrie Guest**Tammy Gilmore**Brent & Tammy Gunderson**Diane McDaniel**Ina McGinley**Janice Pittsley**Mark & Musette Steger**Jerry & Jan Waters***20 to 29 Years:***Mary Jo & Rich Bitner*

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



### **LIBRARY NOTES**

We have four new books. For a short time, they will be on the library cart to the left as you enter the library. Ultimately, they will be shelved by category then author.

Raising the Transgender Child; A Complete Guide for Parents, Families, & Caregivers, Dr. Michele Angello and Alisa Bowman, Category: LGBTQ

Unconditional; A Guide to Loving and Supporting Your LGBTQ CHILD, Telaina Eriksen, Category: LGBTQ

Active Hope; How to Face the Mess We're in without Going Crazy, Joanna Macy & Chris Johnston, Category: Psychology and Philosophy

The Sixth Extinction; an Unnatural History, Elizabeth Kolbert, Category: Politics, World Affairs and Social Justice

### ***American Muslim Women's Association Serve the Meal at I-HELP here at VUU***



**Jane Murray's Memorial Service will be here at VUU  
on Saturday, February 24, 2-5PM**



Jane and her Service Dog Indio

# *VUllers at the Women's March in Phoenix*



# EVENTS

**February 3, 2018**  
9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Community Christian Church,  
1701 S. College Ave., Tempe, AZ

**Sponsors:** Arizona Interfaith Power & Light, Citizen's Climate Lobby, Franciscan Renewal Center, and Arizona Faith Network

**To register,**  
email [doug.bland@azipl.org](mailto:doug.bland@azipl.org)  
Free, donations welcome

## A Climate (for) Change

### What shall I do? How shall I be?

Join us for deep dialogue around navigating social and environmental justice challenges of our time.  
We view these challenges as opportunities to transform our culture.

**Opening message:** Dr. Sonja Klinsky,  
Senior Sustainability Scientist, ASU


**Mini Workshops on...  
How shall I be?**

- Franciscan Spirituality
- Civil Discourse
- Practicing Sabbath
- Creative Expression

**Mini workshops on...  
What shall I do?**

- Citizens' Climate Lobby
- Divestment/Reinvestment
- Food Justice
- Learning from Mother Nature

photo credit: Getome Viavanti CC



## VUU Singles

### **February 4th, 2 pm to whenever, Super Bowl Party at Rebekah's** ([7525 East Pueblo, Mesa](#))

Since game doesn't start until 3:30 (4:30 in Minneapolis), come early for socializing and early snacks during the pregame show. Pizza and ice tea provided. Bring snacks to share. Directions are 60 East, exit onto Sossaman. Then left onto Pueblo. Her house is between Broadway and Southern. Please RSVP call or text to Claudette at 973-768-6047, or call Rebekah at 443-890-5387. Who cares who is playing?!? Justin Timberlake will be the 1/2-time entertainment - his first appearance since the infamous 'wardrobe malfunction' with Janet Jackson! What could possibly go wrong THIS time?

### **Saturday, February 10, 6 pm Potluck Dinner at Renee's** (4761 E. Pawnee Circle, Ahwatukee)

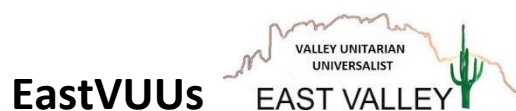
Special evening with Claudette's People Power group doing a presentation. (She promises to be brief and entertaining.) Claudette will provide her wonderful enchiladas, and asks everyone else to bring to bring side dishes. RSVP call or text Claudette at 973-768-6047, or call Renee at 602-471-0361 with what side dish you'd like to bring. Please join us in supporting Claudette's effort on Voter Rights.

### **Friday, February 23, 6:30 p.m. Singles Monthly Dinner - Moroccan Paradise** ([1212 E. Apache Blvd, Tempe](#) - between S. Rural and S. McClintock)

Everything from a Bora Bora Milkshakes to Vegetables Tajine with Falafel to Crepes and Waffles! Join us for some interesting Moroccan food and conversation. Claudette is 'out of country' so please RSVP this time with text or phone call to Susan Lacy at 509-670-2667 (yes, that's an Eastern Washington area code!) by Wednesday, February 21 so we can make reservations.

**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). And here is a cool article about JASS coordinator Mike McBeath: [https://asunow.asu.edu/20180125-creativity-national-puzzle-day-how-brains-solve?utm\\_campaign=ASU\\_Now+1-26-18&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=ASU%20Now&utm\\_term=ASU&utm\\_content=%20https%3a%2f%2fasunow.asu.edu%2f20180125-creativity-national-puzzle-day-how-brains-solve](https://asunow.asu.edu/20180125-creativity-national-puzzle-day-how-brains-solve?utm_campaign=ASU_Now+1-26-18&utm_medium=email&utm_source=ASU%20Now&utm_term=ASU&utm_content=%20https%3a%2f%2fasunow.asu.edu%2f20180125-creativity-national-puzzle-day-how-brains-solve)



All East Valley UUUs and friends are invited on Thursday, February 8 at 6 p.m. for potluck and discussion. The meeting will be at Apache Wells, 2215 N 56th St, in Mesa. Follow the signs to the Community Building, Hopi Room. Please bring food to share and your own table setting(s).

January was our one-year anniversary! In 2018 we will continue to invite East Valley members and friends from the wider neighborhood to join us.

Our February speaker is Anne Schneider, who will share information regarding the newly forming VUUJAZ - Social Justice Conversations group, and the VUU Day at the Legislature, coming up on February 19. Contact Margaret Stewart @ [mjs.ontheroad@gmail.com](mailto:mjs.ontheroad@gmail.com) or 508-662-6348 for more information.

**Wayfarers**

Wayfarers Happy HoUUr on February 16 will be at Keegan’s in Chandler. The address is [1095 W Queen Creek Rd](#), the southwest corner of Alma School and Queen Creek. We will begin meeting at 4:30. Please contact Jan Waters for more info, by phone: 608-201-2207, or by email: [watersj9790@gmail.com](mailto:watersj9790@gmail.com).

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR MARCH IS FEBRUARY 18**

**VUU WOMEN’S GROUP**

The VUU Women’s Group will meet next on Sunday, February 25, after the morning service. All VUU women are invited to gather at the front of the sanctuary for a simple potluck lunch and conversation. Please bring a lunch dish to share, if possible, and enjoy the chance to meet with new and old friends! For questions or comments, please contact Margaret Stewart at [mjs.ontheroad@gmail.com](mailto:mjs.ontheroad@gmail.com), or 508-662-6348.

**Passover Seder - Saturday, March 24th**

You will want to plan to attend our Passover Seder on the evening of Saturday, March 24th in the Sanctuary. Our Seder combines a brief service and a dinner. We will tell the story of Passover, learn some Hebrew songs, eat great food and have a good time. Come and experience this wonderful Jewish tradition and share it with your children.

This will be a potluck with sign-up information to come in future notices. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children to cover the costs of materials. If you have questions or would like to help in any way, contact [Passover@vuu.org](mailto:Passover@vuu.org)



### **PACIFIC WESTERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

We are delighted to announce that advance registration for the Pacific Western Regional Assembly is open! Adult registrations received by the January 31 early-bird deadline save 10%.

Registration and full details about the 2018 Pacific Western Regional Assembly, April 27-29, in Portland, Oregon, can be found on the [PWR Regional Assembly website](#).

A colorful promotional flyer is available for download [here](#). Please consider printing and posting a few copies in your congregation. If you'd like to include a black-and-white poster in your newsletter, that version can be found [here](#).

In mid-December I distributed a one-page piece that included a very brief Regional Assembly announcement, as well as a longer version suitable for your church's newsletter or email notification list. That document can be accessed [here](#). Please relay this link to your newsletter editor and church email list manager.

Be sure to let the religious professionals on your staff know that we have also planned a special day-long professional development program for Friday, April 27. Details are available on the [PWR Regional Assembly website](#).

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:saranac2@gmail.com)



# WhaleCoast Alaska 2018

**WOW! Four Unitarian Universalist Fellowships in Alaska invite you to our awe-inspiring, 25<sup>th</sup> annual Alaska tour program.**

**TOUR #1: National Park Tour, June 9 to 19 -- \$3,135**

**TOUR #2: All-Alaska Tour, July 6 to 18 -- \$3,843**

**WHERE: From the coastal waters to the sunny Interior, from wilderness to modern cities. We experience the best of Alaska: Fairbanks, Denali Park, Anchorage, Juneau, Sitka, Seward**

**SEE:**

- Wildlife: whales, seals, bears, moose, caribou, & more.
- Glaciers, islands, fjords, and mountain ranges.
- Native American artists and dancers.
- Alaska's finest museums.
- Spectacular travel by train, plane, and boat.

**STAY: Real Alaska! UU homestays, meals, & dinner parties with Alaska UUs who treat you like friends.**

Director: Dave Frey, longtime Fairbanks UU

More information: [www.WhaleCoastAK.org](http://www.WhaleCoastAK.org)

Email: [dfrey@WhaleCoastAK.org](mailto:dfrey@WhaleCoastAK.org)

Telephone: 907-322-4966



**Save \$\$\$! - \$100/person discount for group of 8  
Hurry! Each tour sells out when 40 guests register**



## Regional Mission Trip for Youth and Adults next summer!



- Do you have a passion for environmental justice?
- Have you been interested to partner with grassroots organizations to create a lasting partnership in solidarity with local communities?
- Have you ever wanted to make a real difference while learning hands on skills and concepts?

**“Pacific Western Region Justice Journey: Roots, Reflections and Relationships - An Environmental Justice Journey. A week-long immersion experience focusing on Environmental Sustainability through service, learning, and through a meditation practice designed to be reflective and to sustain future justice work.**

Logistics: Sat. night, July 14 - Sunday afternoon, July 22, 2018 at Throop Unitarian Universalist Church [300 S. Los Robles Ave. Pasadena, CA 91101](https://www.throopuu.org/)

You are invited! 25 multigenerational participants - youth (rising 9th - rising 12th graders), YA's and adults. Families with youth, YA's and adults welcome. Cost is \$550.00 per person for 8 days. All meals, lodging at the church, local transportation. (Air and ground Transportation to the Throop Church is not included.) Staff: Eric Bliss, PWR Youth Specialist, Rev. Jaelynn Scott, Buddhist minister and U.U. Religious Educator, Katie Covey, PWR Mission Trip Lead.

[Scholarships](#) are available!

The Pacific Western Region Mission Trip provides an opportunity to practice environmental sustainability in the unique permaculture urban garden at Throop, as well as a variety of community projects and events. In addition, the group will engage in centering meditative UU and Buddhist practices as developed by Rev. Jaelynn Scott's Mutuality Movement as a way to build a lifelong foundation for justice work and compassionate understanding. Registration: <https://register.pwruua.org/event-registrations/pwr-mission-trip/> Contact: Katie Covey, PWR Mission Trip Lead at [katiecovey@gmail.com](mailto:katiecovey@gmail.com).

For more information visit <https://www.uua.org/pacific-western/calendar/pswd/rore2-pwr-justices-journey?month=2018-07>

Hope to see you in Pasadena!

**In faith and in the spirit of love,**

**Eric Bliss | Youth Ministry Specialist, Congregational Life Staff** [eb bliss@uua.org](mailto:eb bliss@uua.org)



## Caring & Concerns Neighborhood Contacts

As we settle into the busyness of the beginning of the year, remember to take the time to connect with and appreciate your friends and family. It's the bonds with them that keep us connected. 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

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South, including Sun Lakes, Queen Creek, Casa Grande

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\*\*\*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](mailto: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](http://www.vuu.org). Articles, announcements and other VUUpoint material may be emailed to: [office@vuu.org](mailto: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 Doctor Andy Burnette, Senior Minister  
The Reverend Kellie Walker Hart, Minister of Music  
Marcie Beaudoin, Director of Faith Formation  
Sue Ringler, Congregation Administrator  
Joe Martin, Maintenance Technician  
Jill Khaleghi, pianist

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