

VUUPOINT

May 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/>

*Beloved Community*

**May 6 With Justice for All: Dr. King’s Vision of Beloved Community** The Rev. Dr. Andy Burnette  
The Chalice Ringers will perform.

**May 13 You Belong Here: Exploring the Heart of Beloved Community** The Rev. Dr. Andy Burnette  
The Adult Choir and Chalice Singers (children’s choir) will perform.

**May 20 It Ain’t Always Easy: The Value of Conflict in Beloved Community** The Rev. Dr. Andy Burnette  
The Worship Band will perform.

**May 27** Led by Patrick Whorton

Events at a Glance

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 5/05 Ryan Marvel Concert                  | 5/20 Congregational Conversation     |
| 5/06 Journey to Membership                | Newsletter Deadline                  |
| The Board Room                            | 5/24 Spirit of Life Reading Group    |
| 5/07 Columbus and Other Cannibals         | 5/25 Singles Monthly Dinner          |
| 5/10 East Valley VUUs Social Action Night | SAWUURA Memorial Day Camp begins     |
| 5/14 What is the Best Diet for Me?        | 5/27 VUU Women’s Group               |
| 5/15 FaithForm Education Hour             | 5/28 Singles Memorial Day Pool Party |
| MLK – THE MEETING                         | 5/31 FaithForm Education Hour        |
| 5/17 N.S.G. Book Club                     | East Valley VUUs Social Night        |
| 5/18 Singles Game Night                   |                                      |
| Wayfarers                                 |                                      |

Sundays – Dalai Lama & Friends  
Wednesdays – Adult Choir, Chalice Singers & Chalice Ringers Rehearsals

**JUNE 3 ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS**



## “A Moment with the Minister”



I’ve asked a lot of people over the years why they choose to be part of a congregation. For some, it’s about a meditative connection with the holy, for others the music is key, and a handful of folks even enjoy the sermons. One person was surprisingly candid, answering that they were mostly looking for a spouse. But by far the majority of people talk about their desire to be in community.

Community is something we religious liberals do well. It’s true that religion is in some ways a damaged brand these days. However, when it is free from hatred and fear, religion is just as important as ever. We are (I hope) at the tail end of an era in which institutions were weakened by cynicism and lack of participation. We have fewer places in which people can gather to cooperatively solve their problems. Our faith homes are filling this vacuum. I think this is why communities like Valley Unitarian Universalist are growing. As the UU hymn says, we have found a need to be together.

So we sing and pray together. We learn and play and work for justice together. We share meals and hugs and care for one another when life gets the better of a member of our community.

But it isn’t just any community we are at work building at VUU, and it doesn’t stop at our doors. Ours is a vision of *beloved* community, the term made famous by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Here is a description of that community, from the King Center: “Dr. King’s Beloved Community is a global vision in which all people can share in the wealth of the earth. In the Beloved Community, poverty, hunger and homelessness will not be tolerated because international standards of human decency will not allow it. Racism and all forms of discrimination, bigotry and prejudice will be replaced by an all-inclusive spirit of sisterhood and brotherhood.”

This vision is our north star. It sets our course as a congregation, even as we know we will never quite reach it in our lifetimes.

This month as we reflect together on Beloved Community, we will dig deeper into Dr. King’s thinking on the topic. We will explore the wide welcome cast in Beloved Community and talk about times when conflict happens in our faith homes. It’s quite a tall order, this building Beloved Community. But you and I are just the people to do it.

With love,  
Rev. Andy

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

## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Dear friends of VUU,

This week the VUU board of trustees and staff met with *Wendell Burnette Architects* to review initial proposals for campus upgrades. As we reviewed initial sketches, the architects did a wonderful job of showing how the upgrades could address many of the concerns from the feedback from our visioning sessions this past month. Thank you all that participated in the visioning sessions and provided input to this process. I personally was moved by what I saw and how it provided opportunities for us to really grow into the vision that we together have put together over the past few years.

For our next steps in the visioning process, we will have another review of the initial sketches with the VUU leadership team with a goal of identifying an option that best represents all the feedback from the congregation. The architects will then spend the next 6 weeks to build a digital 3-D rendering of how the campus could look and the interactions of members and guests. We will review this presentation with the congregation at our annual meeting on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. We can then decide as a congregation to move forward with a feasibility study and capital campaign. This is a very exciting time and I hope that you will join us at the annual meeting for this as well as our normal agenda items including final budget approval for next year, financial status review, special funds, and elections. We will also have a congregational conversation May 20<sup>th</sup> to preview much of this information and hope that you can also attend this meeting.

Our financial status continues to be very positive as we have seen higher than expected revenues from contributions over the past couple months. Our year-end projection now shows a significant surplus if we continue with expected income and expenses through May and June. This is great news and gives us an opportunity to fund even further budget line items for next year and also provides some financial comfort as we decide to take that next step in improving our campus.

Again—I hope you can make it to the congregational conversation and annual meetings mentioned above to do the important business we need to move into our next fiscal year.

Warm regards,  
*Paul Schneider*  
President  
VUU Board of Trustees



“The smallest indivisible human unit is two people, not one; one is a fiction. From such nets of souls, societies, the social world, human life springs.” Tony Kushner

Diversity, by Bob M ~, March 11, 2016, (CC BY 2.0),  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/12463666@N03/25680385576>

## Faith Formation Ministry May 2018

### Education hour discussion groups

This fall (Oct – April) VUU will be offering 2 Sunday morning worship services. In between the 2 services we will have an “Education Hour” for all ages. What will 2 worship services mean to our children & youth’s Sunday morning education program? Rev. Andy and Marci want to hear your thoughts and concerns, join us for any of the following discussions.

- ⊕ Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> 6 – 7:30 pm in the sanctuary
- ⊕ Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup> 6 – 7:30 pm in the sanctuary
- ⊕ Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup> 12 – 1:30 pm in the sanctuary

### Summer curriculum runs June 3<sup>rd</sup> – August 26<sup>th</sup>

**Infants – 4-year olds:** Open play with our childcare staff. Childcare is available every Sunday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm, room 6 in the Education complex.

**Children entering kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> grade:** Start in the sanctuary with families. Children will self-select Books & Cooks group or Activity group, wrist bands will help teacher identify which group children have selected. Class will meet in rooms 1 & 2 in the education complex.

#### Volunteers needed:

- Teach/lead one of the 2 groups of elementary aged children (Books & Cooks or Activity), choose the dates that work for you, Marci will send you the lesson link– [use this link to sign up](#)
- 1 or 2 books will be needed each Sunday for Books & Cooks group – [use this sign up to pick up the books from a local library:](#)

### Sunday, Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> will be Water Fun Day

Come prepared to get wet! Wear swim suit, sunscreen, water shoes, bring a towel! All children/youth start in the Education complex (skip the sanctuary)



### Our theme next school year is Unitarian Universalism

- ⊕ First class: Sunday morning class schedule Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>
- ⊕ Classroom volunteers needed: application and background check required, expectation: teach 1 or 2 times per month

Marci Beaudoin, Director of Faith Formation Ministry

## ONGOING ADULT FAITH FORMATION OFFERINGS



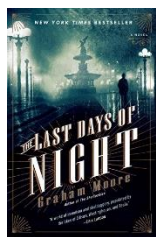
### The Dalai Lama and Friends Workshop

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 am in the room next door, #6**

### 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 May 17 at 7:15 p.m. The book is The Last Days of Night by Graham Moore. This novel is based upon actual events, about the nature of genius, the cost of ambition, and the battle to electrify America. It is populated by the likes of Edison, Westinghouse, Tesla, and Paul Cravath.

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).

### 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 2018: 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.

## What is the best diet for me?



A research and discussion group facilitated by Jerry Waters.

Next meeting: May 14 at 7pm in the VUU Board Room.

Our topic will be the connection between Climate Change and the food we eat. An April 2017 CNN article was entitled "Go Vegan and Save the Planet". They stated that 15% of greenhouse gas emissions were from livestock. And some 80% of deforestation in the Amazon is due to cattle raising.

Come discuss this topic with us and consider how changing our diet can make us better stewards of the Earth. An easy answer for everyone might be "Meatless Mondays"!

## 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)



"We have all known the long loneliness and we have learned that the only solution is love and that love comes with community." Dorothy Day

Mother and Son, by Glenn Beltz, July 23, 2013, (CC BY 2.0).  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/n28307/9388412353>



### VUU WOMEN'S GROUP

The VUU Women's Group will meet next on Sunday, May 27, after the morning service, to celebrate and remember Memorial/Decoration Day. All VUU women and friends are invited to gather at the front of the sanctuary for a simple potluck lunch and conversation. In honor of the holiday weekend, we will share memories of past celebrations, and perhaps military veterans from our own families. 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 (phone or text.)

## MUSIC & MORE



**RYAN MARVEL CONCERT** at Valley UU! One of our fabulous former pianists is giving a concert in our sanctuary on Saturday May 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM. He recently released a new CD and is excited to share some of his new music, as well as some of his old favorites with us. More information and tickets available at:

<https://squareup.com/store/valleyuufundraisers>

On TRANSFORMATION: By the time you read this, we have just finished our monthly Touchstones Theme of Transformation and started to work on the theme of Beloved Community. How appropriate, then, for me to talk about my own journey of transformation and how it affects this wonderful VUU community.

Many of you know that my first husband, Russ, died in March 2012 after living with two illnesses, a chronic one, Parkinson's Disease, and then a more acute one, stomach cancer. Our three children were 21, 19, and 14 at the time. I've been taking mostly baby steps since then to create a new life, slowly figuring out a way to honor and integrate the past while moving into a different life still filled with joy and meaning. On Valentine's Day, 2015 many of you celebrated with James and me as we took a joyful leap into the future and danced the night away at our wedding in the VUU sanctuary.

And now many of the baby steps I've taken are creating another giant leap forward! For a year and a half, I've explored a number of new personal and professional growth options. These included welcoming new family members and learning more about Mexican culture through my middle son's marriage, doing some consulting work in music ministry, doing advanced training in worship design, considering some serious out-of-state job possibilities, fantasizing about running a bed and breakfast or taking early retirement, returning to playing the piano more, supporting James as he re-trained as a bicycle coach and got back into mountain bike racing, and transforming our backyard into an edible garden paradise.

Valley UU is currently undergoing it's own transformation as it looks at a possible Capital Campaign to meet our growing space and ministry needs, and as we go to two services for part of the year, starting in October. After looking at the Board's main goals and having many conversations with Rev. Andy, I have decided to continue to focus on my main areas of Music and Worship Ministries, while lending staff support as needed to our re-forming Membership Team. I will continue to work 3/4's time, which has been the level I've been at happily for over 10 years. But I will consolidate most of my work on three full days: Sundays, Mondays, and Tuesdays. We will keep our house in Tempe but at least half of the week I will spend in Prescott with James, where we have found our dream house and he will develop his cycle coaching business. Adult Choir rehearsals will move to Tuesday evenings starting in August, with the Chalice Singers also likely moving to that time.

I have noticed that most successful long-term ministries blossom best when the employee has been able to reinvent themselves several times over the years, and when the congregation has also been able to learn and grow and change. This is one of those exciting times! I thank you for your continued love and support and look forward to the next phase in our congregational life. I particularly thank my colleagues Andy, Sue, Marci, and Jill for their support, as I've taken both small steps and large leaps of transformation.

I welcome your questions/ideas/thoughts as we move ahead with these exciting changes!

**And if you are interested in membership at VUU, please contact me to register for the JOURNEY TO MEMBERSHP SESSION on Sunday May 6, noon to 3:30 in the sanctuary.**

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



## VUU COMMUNITY

### **ELECTIONS ARE COMING**

Elections will be held at the VUU Annual Meeting at noon on June 3. Please visit the Check-In desk before the start of the meeting to register your attendance (so we can affirm a quorum) and pick up materials.

In person attendance on June 3 is highly encouraged since we will also be voting to approve VUU's annual budget. However, if you are unable to attend, absentee ballots, for the elections only, can be obtained from the VUU Office starting April 30, 2018.

The Leadership Development Committee takes great pleasure in introducing the following candidates for the Board, the Special Funds Committee, and the Leadership Development Committee:

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**



#### **Paul Schneider** (incumbent & current President)

My family and I have been members of VUU since 2010 when we were introduced to Unitarian Universalism for the first time. Since then I have volunteered in RE by assistant teaching the middle school class and participating in the worship band. I was also the membership committee chair for 2 years and was engaged in the Leap of Faith program with our mentor First Universalist Church of Denver and learned about congregational growth and UU organization as a whole. I have been on the Board of Trustees for the last four years, currently serving as board president. I have not only enjoyed learning and growing with the board, but I have also become much more connected to our mission. I would like to continue with another term with the board to help maintain consistency through our current visioning process and to help in the next phase of implementing potential campus changes. Outside of VUU I am an engineer at a large company here in the valley. My wife and I both find VUU as our second home and feel very lucky to have our 3 boys ages 6, 8, and 10 growing up in this community.



#### **Bob Fabre** (incumbent)

Bob Fabre grew up in Arizona, where his academic history included a B.A. in Education, and a J.D., both from Arizona State University, before moving to Virginia in 1979 to begin his professional career as a legal editor. He has been a Unitarian Universalist for some 35 years, being a member of UU churches in Charlottesville, Virginia; Akron, Ohio (where he moved to in 2001); and here at VUU. During his time in Virginia, he was a member of the Board of Trustees and President of the Congregation, as well as (at one time or another) chair of most of the committees in the church (e.g., Social Action, Church Bulletin, Nominating Committee, etc.). While in Ohio, he was a long-time worship associate, and chair of the local UU Christian Fellowship.

Bob retired and moved back to Arizona in 2013, and joined our church in 2014 (his mother, Nell Fabre, was a long-time member of the church). Since returning, he initially concentrated on being a worship associate, but more recently has been a member of the board (since 2017). He would like to continue in

church governance, where he believes his extensive experience and expertise will be a valuable asset to our congregation. His background in two previous UU churches has included long-range planning, as well as three instances involving changes in ministerial leadership, all of which provides him with the relevant makeup to tackle what is now happening with VUU. He is interested in church growth in all of its aspects (i.e., membership, financial, and spiritual/worship/religious education opportunity).

Bob lives in Mesa with his wife Karen (a retired teacher) and their two cats. His daughter Elaina graduated from the University of Arizona in 2016 and now lives and works in Tucson.



**Musette Steger** (incumbent)

I am starting my 15th year as a member of the VUU congregation. Our congregation's path for the next couples of years is exciting as we continue to grow as does our needs. I'm looking forward to continuing my journey within VUU and strengthening our community. Two years ago, I said that as a VUU'er, it is important to be involved, but you also needed to be actively involved and to lend a voice to the ongoing needs of our congregation, staff and community. Serving on the Board for these past two years as VUU Survey Chair, webmaster and acting Secretary has been that and more. I would love to serve the congregation again in any compacity the Board

needs. And of course, you cannot tear me away from assisting in Faith Formation classes, nor working on a variety of VUU fundraisers and events.

I have a bachelor's degree in Communication Arts with an interest in Drama/Speech Communications and Ancient Art History. Besides working full-time as a graphic/social media designer for an import/export company, I also work as a substitute TA at Horizons and continue my freelance work with a variety of clients. When I am not sitting in front of a computer or a classroom, I enjoy time with my family, hiking, scuba diving, skiing and camping.

## **SPECIAL FUNDS**



**Joanne McGrath**

I am a well-experienced accountant who has served the small-business and non-profit communities for over 30 years, offering a depth of accounting capability. Prior work experience includes six years as the Director of Finance for House of Refuge, a non-profit organization, overseeing all aspects of the agency's business functions, accounting, budgeting and multi-faceted reporting. Additional work experience includes employment within several Certified Public Accounting firms where my major responsibilities as a staff accountant included all phases of accounting for clients of multiple industries, including construction, retail, service

industry, restaurants, manufacturing, non-profit and real estate.

I have rounded out my personal life with years of volunteer work with non-profit organizations that provide services to women, girls, the homeless and the homebound, such as The DIGNITY Program, Paz de Cristo, United Way's Project Homeless Connect, the Girl Scouts and my church community. I have been a member of VUU since 2012.



### **Anne Schneider**

Anne Schneider has been a member of VUU since 2005. She has served on many committees including the Board, finance, stewardship and membership. She was VUU's first financial analyst and instrumental in working out the three-year plan that brought VUU out of its financial crisis of 2008.

She is a native of Oklahoma, the daughter of A. R. "Bert" and Margaret Larason. She grew up on a wheat farm in northwestern Oklahoma along with her brother Tim Larason and sister Linda Larason Edmondson.

After graduating from Fargo High School and Oklahoma State University, she earned her Ph.D. in political science from Indiana University. She has held academic positions at Yale University, Oklahoma State University, and Arizona State University. She served as Dean of the College of Public Programs at Arizona State University from 1989 to 2004 and then continued at ASU until 2010 with faculty appointments in the School of Justice Studies and the Department of Political Science.

Now retired, her work continues as policy coordinator for UJJAZ, editor of an occasional e-mail newsletter *The Arizona Legislative Alert*, an active member of the Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation, the League of Women Voters, and many other social-justice oriented organizations.

Hobbies are hiking, road trips, reading, photography, watching politics, and writing poetry.

## **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**



### **Thomas Briggs** (Incumbent & Current Chairperson)

I believe that the Leadership Development Committee should support everyone at VUU in their quest to translate their personal vision into reality. Over the past two years the Leadership Development Committee has presented seminars and workshops such as "VU 101" (basics of how things work at VUU) and "From Vision to Reality" to help people accomplish their vision. We also have made a concerted effort to broaden the pool of qualified

candidates to run for election to the VUU Board of Trustees and Committees, to include newer VUU members as well as those with a long history of service. I am honored to have been a part of these efforts and look forward to continuing my service on LDC.

I have been a member of VUU for 10 years. My service at VUU includes being a member and chairperson of the Green Sanctuary, a member of the Auction Committee (before FUUnd) as well as a number of other programs. I am an environmental engineer by profession, specializing in hazardous waste minimization and environmental permit compliance.



**Regina K Colburn** My name is Regina and I was born and raised in Maryland near DC. We moved to Arizona about 6 years ago and love it so much we bought a home last year in Mesa. We have been members of VUU for about 1 year and our daughter Lily was dedicated in the church last Easter. My background is in team/operations management and leadership development. The last two years I have been working in organizational compliance. I enjoy solving problems, making processes more efficient and working with my business partners towards goals. When we

aren't working we enjoy spending time together as a family with our two dogs. We enjoy exploring Arizona. I am an avid reader and photographer.



**Lynn DeMuth**

My name is Lynn DeMuth and I am running for a position on the leadership development council. I have been a member of the congregation since 1994 and have served on the board, taught religious education classes, chaired social action ministry, and served as a member of a ministerial search committee. I currently sing in the choir and occasionally play piano at services. Recently retired, I facilitated and led numerous teams and committees in my professional life. Then, as now, my philosophy of leadership is helping individuals find their unique talents and strengths and providing support and resources to develop those talents and strengths to serve the greater good. VUU Congregation is an important part of my life. I look forward to serving on the leadership development council and building a community of leaders who can support the congregation in the future.



**Susan Lacy**

I can safely say I'm probably the only Episcopalian born in Utah who went to a Catholic school for 11 years, dated a leader of Mormon missionaries, and had a Jewish friend! At a Washington friend's suggestion, I attended a VUU service over 2 yrs. ago, and found a home. I bought several FUUUnd events that first spring and met many people in those small groups I now call friends. I now help with the scheduling of those donations. I also attended the leadership presentation a year ago to learn more about VUU. Professionally, I was in management, and the employee account agent, for Safeco Insurance Corporation, and Activity Director for a small assisted living community that I still visit when in Washington. I am more than a snow bird, living here 9 months of the year to be near family and now friends.

With this background, I believe I would bring an additional perspective to this committee while remembering what made this congregation so special that I was compelled to join!



**Beverly McCormick** (incumbent)

My name is Beverly McCormick. I have been a member of the VUU congregation for about 18 years.

During that time, I have been a member of the choir, a teacher and a Coming of Age mentor, 3 times, in the Religious Education program, a member, vice president and president of the Board, the volunteer coordinator, a member of the Leadership team, and on the Ministerial Search team that brought Rev Andy to our congregation.

I have been involved in workshops, film talks, and conducted book talks on the following: "Beloved Conversations", "Difficult Conversations and How to Have Them", Black Lives Matter, "For White Folks Who Teach in the Hood and the Rest of Y'all Too".

Sunday is the best day of my week. I love this community.



**Rebecca Riggs**

I was raised Presbyterian but have been a member of Valley UU Congregation since 1984. I have served twice on the Board of Trustees, was a member of the religious education committee for about 14 years and served as chairperson for that committee for 4 years. I was one of the original group of Worship Associates, and still enjoy occasionally leading worship services. I am also one of the founding members of our choir and continue to love contributing to the music program. Presently I am helping with the Pathways to

Membership classes. Considering my long history with VUU, I thought working on the Leadership Development Committee might be a logical next step.



**Charlie Thomas**

Charlie has been a member of Valley Unitarian Universalist congregation since 1988. Since then he has served as president of the board, board member, and several ministerial support committees. He assisted in developing the pastoral care program. Charlie stated that many of the most important people in his life are here at Valley Unitarian Universalist congregation. "I am very grateful for VUU."

**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 May 2018 are:

**10 to 19 Years:**

- Rita Auer*
- Junette Brock*
- Marci Beaudoin*
- Pam Chery*
- Eileen Garces*
- David & Debbie Grande*
- Alicia Holt*
- Wayne & Lynne Paulsen*
- Jerry Robin & Irene Rosenthal*
- Lauren Savaglio*
- Anne Schneider*
- Michelle Tomkins*

**20 to 29 Years:**

- Scotty & Dorothy Meek*
- Jim & Nancy Nielsen*

**30 to 39 years:**

- Barb & Frank Quijada*

**40 to 49 years:**

- Virginia Stone*

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

## It's Not too Late to Join the **FUUNd!**

Although the 2018 **FUUNd** Together Auction has ended, there will still be opportunities to participate in **FUUNd** activities throughout the coming year. Each month, the VUUPoint will include a list of **FUUNd** events that have space available.

Here are your May **FUUNd** opportunities:

**5/5/18 – Genealogy & Your Family's History, 1:00 to 4:00 P.M.** – Elizabeth C. is an expert in genealogy research. Let her start you on your pathway to discovering your own ancestry. Six (6) spaces available; \$25/person. Teens welcome.

**5/5/18 – Mexican No Holds Barred Dinner** – Enjoy *delicious* cheese enchiladas, beef tacos, beans, rice, salad, guacamole, chips, dessert *and* the company of other VUU members. All ages welcome. Six (6) spaces available; \$30/adults, \$10/children under 10 years.

**5/11, 12 & 13/2018 – Bed & Breakfast Weekend in Payson** – Dianna F. is hosting a group of 4 women for a weekend of walking, talking, & eating at her summer home near downtown Payson. One (1) space available; \$75/person.

**5/12/18 - Historic Homes Bicycling Tour, 10:00 AM** – Long-time Willo residents Bobbi R. and Tricia A. will take you on a bike tour of some of Phoenix's historic neighborhoods followed by a picnic lunch at their historic home. One (1) space available; \$40/person.

**5/26/18 – VUU's Kindness Rocks Project** – Create beautiful painted rocks to inspire yourself and others. Please read about the Kindness Rocks Project at [www.kindnessrocksproject.com](http://www.kindnessrocksproject.com). Hosted by Sabena N. and Debbe S. Three (3) spaces available; \$20/person.

**6/9/18 – Card-Making Craft & Coffee Cake** – Create beautiful greeting cards and enjoy home-made coffee cake with Madeline K. Debbe and Connie will be there – Join us!!! Two (2) spaces available; \$30/person.

For details or to purchase a "ticket" and attend one of these events, email [fuundtogether@vuu.org](mailto:fuundtogether@vuu.org) or call Debbe at 480-244-6570.



"Without community, there is no liberation, but community must not mean shedding differences, nor the ...pretense that these do not exist." Audre Lorde

silent diversity, by DryHundredFear, April 1, 2012, (CC BY 2.0), <https://www.flickr.com/photos/68069913@N02/6955660802>

## VUU SOCIAL ACTION MINISTRY

### *Promoting Social, Economic and Environmental Justice*

#### *“Dirty Money” Initiative – Signatures are being collected to put this on the ballot.*

The "Stop Political Dirty Money Amendment" would reverse a trend in recent years of hiding the source of contributions in Arizona. This initiative is being run as a possible amendment to the Arizona Constitution, so the campaign must gather about 226,000 signatures by July in order to get on the ballot. You are needed to help collect signatures. Please go to <https://outlawdirtymoney.com/> to find out more and sign up to volunteer. (Signatures on the petition are being collected most Sundays on the VUU patio before and after Sunday service.

#### *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 May, June, July and August. Because so many people are traveling during the summer, it is difficult finding enough people that can work. 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 May*

Please support our focus charity, Paz de Cristo, by bringing in a donation of **feminine sanitary products and disposable diapers (sizes 3 to 5)** at any time during the month of April. So we don’t receive too many of one type of item, please purchase the product or size indicated by the first letter of your last name:

- A-D Feminine sanitary products
- E-L Disposable Diapers Size 3
- M-R Disposable Diapers Size 4
- S-Z Disposable Diapers Size 5



These are staples that are always in great demand. Thank you for your generosity!

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



Thru our work with the I-HELP Chandler program, VUU provides dinner and shelter for the night for 20+ individuals three Monday nights a month. We like to also provide toiletries to anyone who needs them. Our supplies have been depleted and thus we are asking the congregation to help us build them back up. We have plenty of bars of soap but need the following items: **Combs and brushes, lotion, shampoo, feminine hygiene products, small notebooks, pens and pencils, and sunscreen.**

When you are homeless, you must carry all of your possessions with you all day and keep them close at night, so you don’t want a lot of bulk or weight, thus we ask that you donate sample / travel size items—perhaps toiletries you’ve gathered from hotels on your travels or that you see on sale when you grocery shop. You may **place your donations in the large wicker basket in the foyer** any time. Thank you! For more information, contact Dorothy Schultz [dortmae36@gmail.com](mailto:dortmae36@gmail.com).

### **Thank you for Supporting the VUU Social Action Ministry**

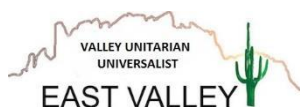
If you have ideas, comments or questions about these or other Social Action projects, please contact Willa Cree, [socialaction@vuu.org](mailto:socialaction@vuu.org)

# EVENTS



*First Sunday of each month 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!*

## **EastVUUs**



**SOCIAL ACTION MEETING MAY 10:** Let's help get out the vote! We will have a speaker to go over the process of voter registration. We will discuss community event locations in the East Valley where we can register voters, as well, pass out information flyers about our group. Dr. Rev. Andy Burnette will attend our meeting.

Please bring along some food to share, a beverage of choice and your own tableware, if possible.

Apache Wells Community Center, Maricopa Room

2215 N 56<sup>th</sup> St., Mesa, AZ 85215

Follow the "Welcome UU" signs to the Community Building.

**SOCIAL NIGHT: May 31:** Pollack Theater, 1825 E Elliot Rd, Tempe. Late afternoon movie (tbd) and dinner at nearby Yuphas. Look for Happenings announcement of title & times!

The EastVUUs are members and friends of Valley UU who are interested in faith development, social justice and friendships in the East Valley. You and your guests are invited and welcome to enjoy our fellowship and lively discussion.

## **VUU Singles**

**Friday, May 18, 6:15 pm, Game Night at Barb Sorauf's** (1410 E. Dana Place, Chandler--near Pecos and McQueen.)

Game Nights have been such a big hit that we just want to keep on doing it! So come join us. We can play your favorite game or play one of someone else's. We guarantee it will be fun! Bring substantial "snacks" to share because this will be our dinner. Water, ice tea and coffee will be provided. Feel free to bring alternate drinks. Let Claudette know if you would like to come on over for an evening of games. We need to keep a count of how many are coming so we know if any extra tables and chairs are needed. Text, call or email Claudette [claudettewassil@hotmail.com](mailto:claudettewassil@hotmail.com), 973-768-6047 to RSVP. For last minute directions, contact Barb at 480-209-0286.

**Friday, MAY 25, 6:30 pm, Singles Monthly Dinner FIBBER MCGEE'S, ([1989 W. Elliot Rd., Chandler](#))** Come share conversation with friends at this traditional Irish Pub. Irish food and Irish beer—what more could you ask for? RSVP to Claudette by call or text 973-768-6047 or simply reply to the group email.

**Monday, May 28, 4:00 pm. Memorial Day Pool Party??** Details to come. If you are on the VUU Singles email distribution list, you will be the first to know. If you would like to be put on the VUU Singles email distribution list, please let Claudette know at [claudettewassil@hotmail.com](mailto:claudettewassil@hotmail.com).

## **WAYFARERS**

May meeting will be held on May 18. Look for time and place in the upcoming Happenings\_

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR JUNE IS MAY 20**




## Memorial Day Camping Weekend at SAWUURA

Friday, May 25 - Monday, May 28, 2018

SAWUURA is our own UU 100-acre woods in the Sierra Ancha Wilderness near Young, AZ (about 4 hrs drive from Phoenix). Join dozens of other UUs Memorial Day weekend for a relaxing weekend under the stars. Disconnect from your phones, computers, TVs and share meals, hikes, music and laughter with other nature-lovers. Meals are provided with the cost of registration, just bring snacks, drinks, and camping gear. Registration Fees: \$60 per adult (\$50 for SAWUURA members), \$25 per child. Registration Due Date: Friday, May 18. Registration forms available online ([sawuura.org](http://sawuura.org)). For more info please contact Eb Eberlein [Ebaztrails@gmail.com](mailto:Ebaztrails@gmail.com) 520-622-6966

**PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!!!**



FIBC IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CREATIVE INTERCHANGE PRESENT

# THE MEETING

A READERS THEATRE EXPERIENCE OF A FICTIONAL MEETING  
BETWEEN DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. & MALCOLM X  
WITH DR. WARREN H. STEWART, SR. AS DR. KING  
AND AHMAD DANIELS AS MALCOLM X

05.15.18 | 7PM  
HOSTED AT FIRST INSTITUTIONAL BAPTIST CHURCH  
1141 EAST JEFFERSON STREET, PHOENIX

FIBC

f t y

*Love is the only cement that can hold this broken community together.  
When I am commanded to love, I am commanded to restore community,  
to resist injustice, and to meet the needs for my brothers.*

-Martin Luther King Jr.-



#### ABOUT WUULF

Western Unitarian Universalist Life Festival is a week-long camp for Unitarian Universalists. We are a friendly, intergenerational camp seeking to build a close-knit community in which we can live out our UU principles and purposes—a place where participants of all ages can spend time focusing on their own interests, as well as spend time together. We are a loving community from a diverse set of age groups, backgrounds, and cultures who gather in New Mexico each year to express our appreciation for each other and our world. We would love to see you there for our relaxing, rejuvenating, and above all, welcoming, week in the New Mexico sun!

Join Dee Masters for an exciting and engaging experience. Letting Go in the Desert is all about music, improv, dance, and games! Everyone is encouraged to participate, young and old

For the rest of the week, enjoy hiking, relaxing, swimming, singing, art, spiritual rejuvenation and community. There is something for everyone at WUULF and we would love to have you!

Visit <http://reg.wuulf.org> to register

#### YOUTH PROGRAMMING

**CUBS** (Grades entering K to entering 2nd) & **COYOTES** (3rd to entering 5th) The children enjoy a number of different activities, including hikes, storytelling, swimming, playing in the mud, visiting museums at the ranch and doing arts and crafts.

**PACK** (Grades entering 6th to entering 8th) Our staff facilitates activities designed to promote learning, sharing, and growing in a UU oriented environment. Pack members will have the opportunity to hike, swim, share feelings, explore their spirituality, and just hang out.

**HIGH SCHOOL** (Grades entering 9th to completing 12th/18YO) Our older teens will meet on program days. We will work on communications and intergroup team building

Visit [www.WUULF.org](http://www.WUULF.org) for a copy of our catalog or email [info@wuulf.org](mailto:info@wuulf.org) with any questions!



## Caring & Concerns Neighborhood Contacts

In the spring, people take advantage of the nice weather to get out and do more. As you get busier, 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.

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Your Neighborhood Contacts are:

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

Carl Anderson	480-529-4365
Donna Bennett	480-570-4024

canderaz@cox.net
donnaben22@gmail.com

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
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lperry98@earthlink.net
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Tempe South - Zips: 85283, 85284

DiAnna Farmer	480-413-0293
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dianna_farmer@hotmail.com
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Mesa West - Zips: 85201, 85202, 85210

Mary Jo Bitner	480-831-5518
Debbe Simpkins	480-244-6570

friendsofdebbe@gmail.com
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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
Joel Sannes	480-464-6772
Rebekah Thomas	443-890-5387
Diana Woods	480-835-5621

bettyjbarnes@cox.net
joelsannes@gmail.com
rkendri@hotmail.com
dianawoods@hotmail.com

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

Neighborhood Contacts Needed!

Madeline Kasian	480-349-3080
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maddie628@gmail.com
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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
Jacqui Meriweather	480-491-0546

barbara_face@qwest.net
jacquelinea.meriweather@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](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  
Marci Beaudoin, Director of Faith Formation  
Sue Ringler, Congregation Administrator  
Joe Martin, Maintenance Technician  
Jill Khaleghi, pianist

#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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DeeAnne McClenahan, Vice President & Board Rep. to Finance Committee  
Karl Hurst-Wicker, Financial Analyst/Treasurer  
Maria Dixon  
Musette Steger  
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Bob Fabre