



VUUPOINT FEBRUARY 2019



Valley
Unitarian
Universalist
CONGREGATION

Sunday Service Times

9:15 A.M.

&

11:30 A.M.

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



Sunday Services 9:15 A.M. & 11:30 A.M.

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

Your Sunday Bulletin is now posted on the website.

Go to vuu.org and click on Sunday Bulletin at the top of the home page.

February Theme is Surrender/Letting Go

February 3 *Love and Theft: The Story of the Banjo in America*

Rev. Dr. Andy Burnette

The banjo was brought to America by slaves. It was co-opted by white people, who often pretended to be black people (via blackface) when playing it publicly.

February 10 *Our Long Goodbyes: The Shared Experience of Grief*

Rev. Dr. Andy Burnette

How can we navigate the pain of letting go of loved ones? Adult Choir sings.

February 17 *No Dams in the River: Taoism on Letting Go of the Illusion of Control*

Rev. Dr. Andy Burnette

We like to think we have lots of control over our lives, but Taoism reminds us that control is often an illusion. How can we become more comfortable being carried along by the river of existence? Worship Band plays.

February 24 *Panel on Letting Go*

Organized by Barbara Metz and Barbara Face

Adult Choir Sings.

Events at a Glance

2/01 Singles Game Night	2/14 EastVUUs Meet
2/03 FUUNd Bidding Begins	2/15 Wayfarers Happy HoUUr
Journey to Membership	2/16 Singles Valentine's Party
The Board Room	2/17 LDC presents The Joy of Service
Cakes for the Queen of Heaven	Spectrum Meets
Spectrum Meets	7 th Principle Climate Actions
2/04 UUA Common Read	Cakes for the Queen of Heaven
2/06 Resolution Copper	A Room with a VUU
Brown Bag Lunch with Andy	Newsletter Deadline
2/09 Women4Women	2/18 UU Day at The Legislature 2019
Valentine's Dance	2/21 Page Turners Meet
2/10 Special Congregational Discussion	2/22 Singles Monthly Dinner
VUUJAZ Conversations	2/24 VUU Women's Group
A Room with a VUU	7 th Principle and My Impact
Voices Lifted Rehearsal	Voices Lifted Rehearsal
2/13 Barracoon	Story Circles

Sundays – Dalai Lama & Friends & Monthly Worship Discussion
Tuesdays – Adult Choir, Chalice Singers & Chalice Ringers Rehearse

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I sent a letter to our representatives via the congregation's [Citizens' Climate Lobby](#) group. I remember as a young adult when the Seventh Principle was added to the UUA (then, six) principles; it was a big deal. *Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.* Indeed, the earth, its living things, the environment, and each other, are a big deal, and UU's around the world have played our part in fighting against their destruction. CCL activities embody our passion for democracy and the environment, together, and I'm proud to see our community so involved in this.

This month the board is looking forward to Reverend Andy's return, and our **February 10 mid-year congregational meeting (at 12:30 p.m.)**. While we will not be taking any formal actions, we hope you will join us for an update on our finances, the 2019 Operating Pledge Drive, and presentations from the Capital Campaign and Capital Planning Committees, who have been working hard toward our long-term campus vision goals.

If you haven't made your pledge for 2019 yet, you still have time to help make our message sweeter by making [your intentions known here](#). We have accounted for 195 households, including 22 first-time pledgers, with over \$400,000 in pledges. Thank you! We need to hear from another 72 households before we can call it a wrap (and we need another \$50,000 to get to a solid budget). Whether \$2 or \$200 a week, **your commitment** makes more difference when we can count on it (in the budget) than when it is given without (in the plate).

Next month, the board returns with Andy to our big project, doing the "math of mission," which includes measuring - in ways we have difficulty defining, but are working on diligently - whether and how in fact we are living up to our [vision and ends statements](#). I use that link often, because we cannot remind ourselves too often why we are here, in this, together. We hope to report to you in June how we are doing. If you have a story, or question, or other input about how we are meeting our own expectations, [please share them with me](#).

In peace and with gratitude,
DeeAnne McClenahan

President
602.214.4608

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

Faith Formation Ministry February 2019

The Coming of Age program is off to a great start! Facilitators Carl Anderson, Rebecca O'Rourke, Alex Fuller and Marci Beaudoin will lead this 4-month long program filled with workshops, exercises, team building, and outings to offer our youth (17 youth this year!) the opportunity to explore their beliefs, spirituality and their Unitarian Universalist faith in a new way. Each youth is paired with a mentor from the congregation (a few of our mentors went through the program in their teens ☺) Mentors stand behind the youth to give them support and walk alongside them when offering wisdom.

Our program will culminate with a 5-day trip to Boston – home of American Unitarianism AND American Universalism. **Watch for fabulous and fun fundraisers:**

Feb 9: An Evening of Valentine's Music and Dancing

March 3rd: Italian Dinner,

April 21st: Easter morning Pancake Breakfast

T-shirts: we are in the designing phase – who wouldn't love a 7 Principles shirt...or maybe one with a wise saying or symbols from the world religions. Watch for the big reveal!

Marci Beaudoin, Director of Faith Formation ministry

ADULT FAITH FORMATION OFFERINGS

See program descriptions below

Note: faith formation classes may meet on Easter, April 21st.

	<u>1st Sunday</u> 2/3, 3/3, 4/7	<u>2nd Sunday</u> 2/10, 3/10, 4/14	<u>3rd Sunday</u> 2/17, 3/17, **4/21	<u>4th Sunday</u> 2/24, 3/24, 4/28
Dalai Lama and Friends	room 1	room 1	room 1	room 1
VUUJAZ Conversations		Board room		
7th Principle and My Impact				Board room
7th Principle Climate Actions			Conference Room	
Story Circles				Sanctuary library
A Room with a VUU: Using Contemporary Latinx Art to Explore our Values FULL		Sanctuary library	Sanctuary library	
Cakes for the Queen of Heaven (Nov 4 – April 7) FULL	Board room		Board room	



The Dalai Lama and Friends Workshop

Facilitated by David Black and Melanie Cloonan-Schulte

An opportunity to learn from the Dalai Lama and other modern Buddhist teachers is offered each Sunday. The program is offered in 2 parts:

*8:30 - 9 am, room 5: meditation

*10:30 - 11:20 am, room 1: Group discussion of presentations on topics such as how to be more compassionate, cultivating our mind, dealing with anger, or how to meditate.

Questions? Just email DavidBlackDLF@gmail.com

Every Sunday - child care is available at 8:30 am in the room #6

7th Principle and My Impact, discussion group

Led by Jerry Waters Meeting dates: **2/24, 3/24, 4/28**

We will meet on the 4th Sunday of each month in the board room.

Focusing on the 7th Principle: ***Respect for the interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part***, how are we affecting our planet? Discussions will revolve around climate change, blue zones, mining, food production and more!

7th Principle Climate Actions

Led by Jeff Grout Meeting dates: Meeting dates: **2/17, 3/17, 4/21**

We will meet on the 3rd Sunday of each month in the conference room, in the office building.

Our focus will be on specific things that people can do to heal our climate. Possible topics include:

- VUU Citizens' Climate Lobby letter writing and politician meeting opportunities
- Possibility of Restarting the VUU Green Sanctuary
- UU Statewide and VUUJAZ actions related to climate change. Inform attendees of existing meetings that we can attend with volunteering opportunities.
- Discuss specific actions that people can take to reduce their carbon footprint and discussion of large and small ways to reverse global warming. (See list of top 100 contributors to global warming at <https://www.drawdown.org>)

VUUJAZ CONVERSATIONS

Facilitated by Anne Schneider

We will meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month in the board room.

A monthly “coffee conversation” for anyone interested in improving social justice through public policy using education, public witness, and participation in UU Day at the Legislature. We will share what we are doing, thinking, wondering, worrying about, and other information! All are welcome! For more information, contact legislativeadvocacy@vuu.org.

Offsite or Evening meetings

Weekly Parenting group

Led by Maria Sireci-Najmi

We will meet weekly (dates and times to be determined by the group.)

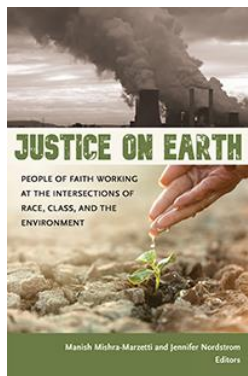
A weekly parenting group for moms, dad, grandparents, and childcare people of all types. We will read and do exercises from various parenting books during our meetings. No reading at home required! Do not worry if you can't attend every meeting, we will most likely move slowly through each book. We will create a platform for support and connection and help to strengthen intentions and skills in parenting.

The first book will be [Positive Discipline](#) by Jane Nelson.

If you're interested, please email Maria with the age of your children and date & time preferences. mariawildflower@rocketmail.com 602 884 0827 (text). One possibility: Monday nights from 7-8:30.

This is an adult only group and there is no childcare available.

Please share this information with any parents/caregivers who might be interested.



The 2018-19 UUA Common Read (weeknight program)

Justice on Earth: People of faith working at the intersection of race, class, and the environment.

Jayne Burgess will facilitate Monday evenings: Feb 4th, March 4th & April 1st, 7 pm, VUU board room

Impoverished communities have relatively little political clout and, therefore, policy decisions have led to poor and non-white communities becoming “the destination for the waste and pollution of more affluent, typically white, communities.” Due to locating power plants, waste facilities, and pollution-generating industries in minority and lower-income settings, “illnesses related to pollutants, troubles with water quality, and a rise in cancer and childhood asthma rates” in these areas have become the national norm. “The environmental movement launched in 1970 lacked the consciousness and commitment to address the structured racial and economic inequality.” The essays in this book attempt to rectify that and integrate these justice issues.

Seating is limited so please contact Jayne Burgess to reserve your spot. 480-940-8877 or Jayne@JayneBurgess.com.

Purchase your book:

UUA bookstore <https://www.uuabookstore.org/Justice-on-Earth-P18357.aspx>

Amazon (kindle version available) https://smile.amazon.com/Justice-Earth-Working-Intersections-Environment/dp/155896813X/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1542241225&sr=8-1&keywords=justice+on+earth+book

The Page Turners Book Club (offsite, evening meeting)



The Page Turners 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 21 at 7:15 p.m. The book is *The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant.

This novel reveals the traditions and turmoil of ancient womanhood--the world of the red tent. Told through the voice of Dinah (Book of Genesis), it begins with the story of her mother's--Leah, Rachel, Zilpah, and Bilhah--the four wives of Jacob.

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

Coming in April: Six-week Introductory Training in Mindfulness

Led by Ann Sebren

Thursdays April 4, 11, 18, 25, May 2 & 9, 6 – 8 pm in room 2 in the education complex.

Develop focused and embodied attention, self-awareness, emotional intelligence, and greater sense of ease and well-being. Learn a variety of mindfulness meditations and practical ways to integrate mindfulness in daily activities.

Middle School Social Justice project

-Raising money for Lost Our Home, pet shelter

For sale Sundays Feb 3rd & 10th

Valentine's day cards

with choice of:

 **Candy**

 **Puzzle**

**Valentines will be delivered
during Faith Formation hour
Sunday, Feb 10th.**

MUSIC & MORE

A GREAT DENOMINATIONAL EVENT!

About 10 of us from the Adult Choir attended a workshop on circle singing “a la Bobby McFerrin” in Tucson on Jan. 19th. Then we stayed and sang three pieces with a combined choir for the installation service of Rev. Bethany Russell-Lowe, the new settled minister at the UU Church of Tucson. It was a great day and we are excited for their congregation as they begin their time with a wonderful, young, and vibrant minister.

UPCOMING CHOIR MUSIC

During the February 10th Sunday morning services, the Adult Choir plans to sing a piece titled “Carry Me.” It is based on a moving song written by my UU musician colleague David Burrows in Denver. His partner Keith Arnold wrote the piano part and did the choral arrangement. I believe the words are particularly fitting for our congregation, especially during our meditation/prayer time, and as we seek to be support to one another:

*Oh, my heart carry me through this world of dark and light.
In my grief let me heal, grant me peace.
In my joy let me soar as a hawk in azure sky.
Healing heart, my ever friend, my ever friend carry me.*

*Soul friend may you find in my eyes compassion.
May I be listening ears to truly hear.
When you fall let me kneel, lend a hand so you can rise.
Let my heart encourage yours, our hearts will carry us.*

*Gentle friend let me sing melodies, to give you wings.
May you find soft green hills to give you rest.
May you be full of strength, like a mountain still and free.
Wise heart, illumine us, like stars upon the sea.*

And remember, all our choirs are always open to new members:

CHALICE RINGERS

VUU's Hand Bell Choir rehearses TUESDAYS, 6 to 7:15 p.m. in the VUU sanctuary. This group performs for Sunday services about once a month and occasionally at other congregations. It is open to anyone who can count, and they especially welcome people to try them out over the next couple of months, as they prepare for a concert later in the spring. Contact Director Joan Bundy at joan@joanbundylaw.com for more information.

CHALICE SINGERS

VUU's Children's Choir rehearses on Tuesdays, from 6:15 to 7 p.m. in the sanctuary library. This fun group is for children mostly Kindergarten through grade 6, and they also perform for Sunday services about once a month.

ADULT CHOIR

Rehearses on Tuesday evenings 7:30 to 9pm in the sanctuary. Open to 9th grade through age 100! Sings a variety of mostly 4-part music.

VOICES LIFTED SINGERS

Open to women and older girls, this ensemble sings in community settings such as nursing homes, and at bedside for those recovering from illness or surgery, or in hospice care. Rehearsals are on Sunday afternoons usually on the WEST side of the parking lot (look for signs) from 1:30 to 3pm. Upcoming rehearsals are Feb. 10 & 24, March 10 & 31, April 14, and May 19.



The next **JOURNEY TO MEMBERSHIP SESSION** will be **Sunday February 3** from 1 to 4:00 in the sanctuary. If you have been attending VUU for a few weeks or months, are interested in finding out more about Unitarian Universalism and membership at Valley UU, and want to meet other newcomers, then this is for you! Please register by emailing music@vuu.org or office@vuu.org and let us know if you have any dietary needs for the lunch we will provide, or need babysitting for a child. If you can't make this session, other sessions will be on May 5 or August 18. You only need to attend one session, afterward you will be given the opportunity to sign our membership book if you so choose and will be welcomed during an upcoming ceremony during a Sunday morning service.

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



"When one door closes, another opens;
but we often look so long
and so regretfully upon the closed door
that we do not see
the one which has opened for us."

Alexander Graham Bell

Photo by matthaeus on Unsplash

Help Bring the Garden Back to Life

The VUU garden has not been particularly productive for the past year. If it looks like all we've been growing is dirt, that's mostly true. Our compost process has been kept alive and the soil has been incrementally enriched with each seasons output.

We are now approaching the spring planting season and would like to get more people involved. If you would like to spend a couple of dollars on a packet of seeds and try your hand a growing something, please contact Ken St. John at ken_stjohn@yahoo.com. He will allocate you some space and provide help with cultivating, planting, watering, monitoring and maintaining it as needed.

The produce you produce could be either donated to a food bank or shared freely with the congregation.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The **FUUNd** Begins on Sunday, February 3rd

VUU's 2019 **Let's Have FUUNd Together** auction begins on February 3rd and continues every Sunday throughout February. Bidding will take place on the patio outside of the sanctuary immediately following the first service. The tables will stay open until 1:00 PM each Sunday so that no matter which service you attend, you will have a chance to bid!

Thanks to the incredible generosity of this congregation, there are almost 100 **FUUNd** events, made-to-order items, and services being auctioned off this year!! Be sure to watch your email for your copy of the auction catalog so that you can plan your bidding strategy ahead of time.

Then, on February 3rd, come to the patio outside of the sanctuary. You'll be given a bidder number and instructions for bidding, and you can begin having **FUUNd!**

Here's a bidding tip: Auction items will be organized into seven **FUUNd** categories: **Arts and Crafting, Dining Together, Hikes, Tours and Outings, FUUN FUUNd Events, Catering, Get Out of Town,** and **Services & Lessons**. The tables will be covered with cloths that match each category's color. To bid on an item listed in **Arts and Crafting** for example, look for the **PURPLE** tables!

Bid early and bid often! **Let's Have FUUNd Together** making this the most successful auction in VUU history! Click for the [2019 FUUNd Catalog](#)



*An Evening of Valentine's Music & Dancing
with the Valley UU Worship Band
Saturday, Feb. 9 at 7 p.m.
Valley UU Congregation, sanctuary
6400 W. Del Rio St., Chandler, AZ 85226
Tickets: \$15
includes one dessert & one beverage
Supporting the 2019 Coming of Age Youth*



Don't miss our Valentine's evening of music and dancing. A night of love, fun, and fundraising. Tickets available from youth before and after services.



The Capital Campaign
Financial Feasibility Study
Results

Special Congregational Meeting

The Capital Campaign Financial Feasibility Study has been completed, and so far, the results indicate that we should be able to raise enough money within our membership to take steps towards improving VUU's campus in ways that will truly support our mission and programs. The Capital Campaign Committee is continuing to analyze the report and to explore additional funding mechanisms in support of our collective vision. The Capital Planning Committee is working hard to develop options based on various levels of funding. The options will be presented at a special congregational meeting on February 10th. The Feasibility Study is available here: [Financial Feasibility Report](#)

As we continue this journey together, we remain mindful of how an improved and more beautiful space can make a powerful difference in our ability to pursue our own spiritual paths and to share VUU's message of love, service, and justice with a wider, more diverse audience. Please join us on February 10th as we continue to plan our collective future.

Leadership Development Committee

The Leadership Development Committee (LDC) invites you to view an awesome inspirational video titled **The Joy of Serving on February 17** after the 2nd service. The committee members, along with members of the Board and the Special Funds will be available for an open discussion on opportunities available in the 2019 congregational election. We encourage everyone to attend and promise not to assume it means you are volunteering to run for an elected position. However, if you would like to offer yourself as a candidate for the Board of Trustees, LDC, or Special Funds, please speak about it with one of the LDC committee members anytime. They are: Tom Briggs, Barb Sorauf, Lynn DeMuth, Charlie Thomas, Ken St. John, Beverly McCormick and David Sheh.



Opportunity to help Women4Women Tempe

We've partnered with Women4Women Tempe's to help provide bags containing feminine hygiene products to homeless and low-income women. They believe these items should be available to those who need them, regardless of their economic situation.

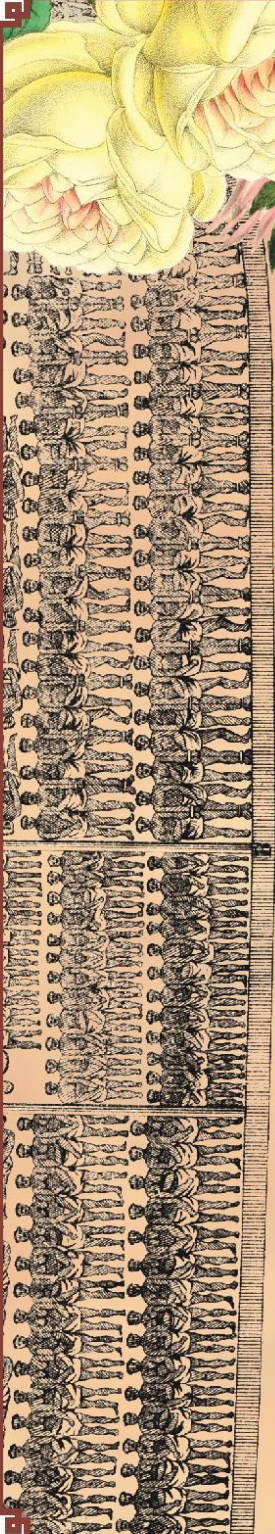
We'll gather together (women and men are both welcome) to assemble bags from 9 a.m. to 11.a.m. on Saturday February 9th in the Board and Conference rooms in the office building. There are several ways to help:

1. Come and help make the bags on the 9th
2. Donate items to fill the bags – feminine maxi pads and tampons are especially needed
3. Donate money to purchase the above items.

Lauree Perry will cheerfully accept your donations; either monies or products.

Beverages and light snacks will be provided. This is a fun, low-key way to get to know each other, and do something helpful for our larger community.


For more info contact Lauree (lperry98@earthlink.net)




BARRACOOON

The Story of the Last "Black Cargo" by
Zora Neale Hurston

In 1927, Zora Neale Hurston went to Plateau, Alabama, just outside Mobile, to interview eighty-six-year-old Cudjo Lewis. By then, Cudjo was the only known person alive to tell the story of this integral part of the nation's history. This story was not published until 2018.



Multimedia book talk series presented by
Rev. Dr. Andy Burnette, Senior Minister,
Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Beverly McCormick, Middle School Principal, Retired

February 13, 20, 27 and March 6
6:30-8:00pm

Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation Sanctuary
6400 W. Del Rio St., Chandler, AZ 85226

For more information call the VUU office at
480-899-4249 or email office@vuu.org.

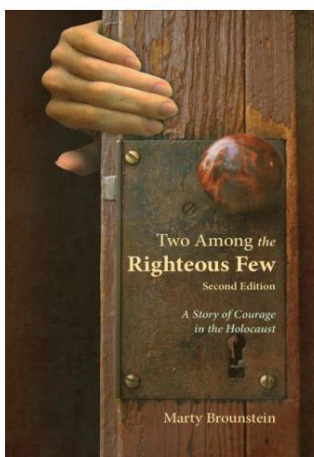
An Interfaith Story of Courage and Compassion With Speaker and Author Marty Brounstein



Sunday, March 10, 2019
12:30 p.m. Light Potluck lunch, 1:00 Presentation

Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation and Congregation NefeshSoul are pleased to host this special program with storyteller Marty Brounstein, author of ***Two Among the Righteous Few: A Story of Courage in the Holocaust***. He brings a true interfaith story of courage, compassion, and rescue about a Christian couple in the Netherlands named Frans and Mien Wijnakker who, despite much risk and danger, saved the lives of over two dozen Jews during World War II. Marty also has a **meaningful personal connection** to this story and its heroes, which he reveals in his engaging storytelling presentation.

Now into his 8th year, Marty has been on an unexpected journey of sharing this special story in a variety of venues in his home base of the San Francisco Bay Area plus in 15 other cities around the country. He has come to the Valley for the 8th winter for a speaking series here.



Book signing follows the presentation.

The event is open to the community.

Come hear this inspirational story!

LOCATION:

Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation
6400 W. Del Rio St.
Chandler, AZ 85226
(781) 729-8220

Sign-up to bring something to our potluck with NefeshSoul on March 10:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e4eaea72ca4f58-solidarity>

Start gathering your donations TODAY!



Donate

YOUR NO LONGER NEEDED ITEMS AND MORE!

Help Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation raise money by donating your unwanted items!

Bring your donations to:

Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation

6400 W. Del Rio St., Chandler, AZ 85226

Sunday, March 24th from 11AM - 1PM

The Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation earns money for every pound of donated items!

We gladly accept: Dishes, Pictures, Frames, Plates, Pots, Pans, Bakeware, Stuffed Animals, Figurines, Mugs & Glasses, Home Décor, Lamps, DVDs, Books, VHS, Video Games, Alarm Clocks, Radios, Speakers, Small Kitchen Appliances, Rugs, Purses, Wallets, Backpacks, Ties, Scarves, Belts, Gloves, Hats, Blankets, Sheets, Computers, Tools, Toys, Clothing, Shoes, Furniture, Electronics, Sporting Goods, Large Appliances.

Unfortunately we cannot accept: Auto Parts, Building Materials, Tires, Cleaning Products, Flammable Products, Pesticides/Lawn Garden Products, Paint/Paint Supplies, Televisions, Mattresses, Sofa Beds, Pool Tables.



VUU COMMUNITY

The Endowment Report – February 2019

The combined balance of the endowment funds is \$404,862.

Despite the volatile swings in the U.S. stock markets recently, our investment mix has weathered the storm well. We are pleased that through the worst of the recent Presidential tantrums and tariffs, shutdowns and showdowns, our endowment lost only 1% of its total value during this period. Our advice continues to be, as always, remain calm and stick to our tested investment strategies and principles.

We have finally wrapped up the final accounting on your donations to the endowment from Recognition Sunday and other 2018 year-end giving. Thanks to tremendous outpouring of love and appreciation for the many years of service of Beverly McCormick, the endowment fund received \$5,095 from over 65 families who made gifts in her honor. In addition, another generous \$1,000 donation was made to the endowment in honor and memory of Betty Sadowsky. These contributions are one way in which the endowment grows each year. But individual commitments by members in their wills and estate plans are also key.

If you have made such plans to benefit VUU in your will or estate, please make sure to notify us of your intentions. Your gifts make long-term planning for the congregation possible and help us to honor your legacy and intentions. Forms can be found in the sanctuary, VUU office or on the VUU webpage. You may also always contact a Special Funds committee member to discuss your intentions.

Thank you to everyone whose gifts support the endowment, and the outstanding special programs funded by it, to grow the impact of our congregation and our UU faith in the community and the broader world. – Chris Sar csartempe@gmail.com

VUU's Hospitality/Coffee Team



Our fearless leader, Regina Colburn has done a wonderful job coordinating our Hospitality/Coffee/Snack Hour between the end of our 9:15 a.m. Service and the beginning of our 11:30 a.m. Service. We also thank all the new and veteran volunteers who have stepped up to help. We can use some more help if you're interested.

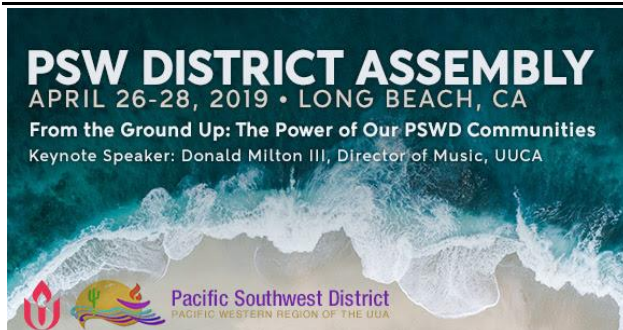
If you'd like to donate something to share with your VUU family, we always love homemade treats, we like offering sweet (cookies, brownies, etc.) and salty snacks (that big pretzel barrel from Costco is wonderful). Even healthy fruit/vegie snacks are tolerated. 😊 and yes, we have gluten-free options! For your hot beverage, we now offer Half & Half, organic raw sugar and every other kind of sweetener available. Karen Stucke created a 'Tea-Box' and you can help keep it stocked. We have hot cocoa and of course, we use TONS of coffee!! Bring and donate any of these items! Or put a donation in the donation jar on the snack table to help pay for these quality treats and beverages.

To volunteer, please contact: Sue at office@vuu.org or Regina at reginakcolburn@gmail.com

"We need to learn to let go as easily as we grasp, and we will find our hands full and our minds empty."

- Leo Buscaglia-

2019 Pacific Southwest District Assembly



Additional info on the upcoming Assembly (see the January newsletter)

WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHT:

Is Sunday School Really Dead? Find Out at the PSW District Assembly

No, it isn't. But our congregations are part of a huge cultural shift, where 20th century models of children's religious education just aren't working like they used to. However, there are exciting new alternatives rising in Sunday School's place. Join our region's Lifespan Faith Formation specialist at the Pacific Southwest [District Assembly](#) to discuss and explore the issues.



Rev. Sarah Gibb Millspaugh of the UUA regional staff will talk about many of them during the workshop she leads at the [District Assembly](#) April 26-28 at the UU Church of Long Beach.

You can see the entire [District Assembly program](#) and register now to take advantage of the early-bird discount.

Rev. Millspaugh answered a few questions recently about her workshop entitled, "The Death of Sunday School and the Birth of What?"

What do you mean by "the death of Sunday school"? What's dying?

Rev. Millspaugh: UU religious educator Kim Sweeney coined the term "The Death of Sunday School" in her [provocative 2017 paper on the future of faith formation](#). Our U.S. culture, our congregations and our families are changing in ways that make the "default" of age-segregated classroom-based Sunday morning religious education not work so well anymore. Acknowledging this helps us begin to think creatively about how we minister meaningfully to children and families, today and in the decades to come.

What will replace it?

Rev. Millspaugh: A variety of models are bubbling up as our congregations grapple with how to best help form the faith of children and families. These include whole-congregation (all ages) worship, multigenerational community service, worship and programs specifically for families with young children, opportunities for age-based programs, and more. And many familiar ingredients of Sunday School will still be a part of what we do: curricula, stories, learning through play, building friendships with peers, Our Whole Lives, Coming of Age, youth groups, and more.

What will attendees who attend your workshop at the District Assembly learn?

Rev. Millspaugh: They'll learn that if they're struggling to maintain an age-segregated, classroom-based program that just doesn't seem to be as robust as it used to be, they're not alone. They'll gain some permission and some ideas to think differently about how we approach religious education as congregations. They'll leave with tools: a framework for engaging in visioning as a congregation around children's programs, and examples of models that other congregations have implemented.

Plan now to register for and attend the [2019 Pacific Southwest District Assembly!](#)

VUUSOCIAL ACTION MINISTRY

Promoting Social, Economic and Environmental Justice

Paz de Cristo February Donation of the Month: Pasta

Please support our focus charity, Paz de Cristo, by bringing in a donation of pasta (any type) at any time during the month of February. Drop your donation in the designated container next to the Social Action Ministry table 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 winter staple.



Thanks to your continued generosity, during the holiday season, VUU collected over 200 food items, \$100 in gift cards, and over 300 non-food items (like diapers) to donate to Paz de Cristo. Your kindness makes a real difference!

VUUJAZ Special Discussion

On Feb. 10, here at VUU during the VUUJAZ "faith formation" time slot (10:30 to 11:20) there will be a special discussion on how to get involved in the "day at the legislature," and -- even if you are not able to go -- what "messages do we want to send." You are welcome to attend the Feb 10 session and add your voice to the ones that will be at the Capitol on Feb. 18.

UU Day at the Legislature 2019

Monday, February 18th - Presidents' Day



Please join UUs from all over the state at the annual UU "day at the legislature," Monday, Feb. 18, 9:30 to 3 (President's Day). There will be facilitators making appointments with legislators so that you may be able to meet with your legislators! Also, there will be outdoor "workshops" on a variety of topics including "request to speak," the equal rights amendment, education, immigration, and other topics. This is on the lawn at the capitol. You can register here <https://www.uujaz.org/> or contact legislativeadvocacy@vuu.org to register. There will be carpooling from VUU -- gather about 8:30 at VUU.

Resolution Copper



Resolution Copper – The proposed Mega-Copper Mine at the Oak Flat Campground area, near Superior Arizona: What effects would this mine have on Arizona?

Presenter: Roger Featherstone, Director, Arizona Mining Reform Coalition

Where: VUU Sanctuary

When: Wednesday 7pm, February 6, 2019

The proposed mine would produce one billion pounds of copper per year. The deposit will be removed from a depth of more than 7000 feet. This massive operation will produce a tailings (waste) pile covering 7 square miles and with a height of several hundred feet. The waste is expected weather and become acidic, with periodic streams of wastewater escaping to the environment.

For more information, see www.azminingreform.org

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

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 2019 are:

10 to 19 Years:

*Nick Carr
Nancy Egly
Laurie Fagen
Terrie Guest
Tammy Gilmore
Diane McDaniel
Ina McGinley
Ann Moore
Janice Pittsley
Mark & Musette Steger
Jerry & Jan Waters
Carol Weatherspoon*

20 to 29 Years:

Mary Jo & Rich Bitner

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

VUU GATHERINGS



February 3

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!



Will meet the 1st and 3rd Sundays after the 11:30 AM Service



VUU SINGLES EVENTS

Not signed up to receive VUU Singles event emails? Contact Claudette by phone, text or call at 973-768-6047 or email, claudettewassil@hotmail.com and she'll get you on the list.



Friday, February 1, 6:15 pm: Game Night at Bob and Raul's (7392 S. Hazelton Lane, Tempe—near NE corner of Elliot and McClintock)

What could be more fun than a night of games? Dominoes, Apples to Apples, card games or anything your heart desires, just bring it along. We'll all bring substantial "snacks" to share and make a slow dinner out of them. Water, iced tea and coffee will be provided. Feel free to bring alternate drinks. We need to keep a count of how many are coming so we know if any extra tables and chairs are needed. RSVP by text, or call or email Claudette at claudettewassil@hotmail.com, [973-768-6047](tel:973-768-6047), or Raul at rblanco1001@gmail.com, [561-901-9277](tel:561-901-9277). For last minute directions, contact Raul.

Saturday, February 16, 6:00 pm: Valentine's party at Claudette's (1213 N. Palm St., Gilbert)

Romantic dinner for 20? Elegant pot luck made up of the foods you would have prepared for your date, if you'd had one. As the song advises: Love the One You're With! Bring a Valentine for a Valentine swap (grab bag style). We'll all watch a movie celebrating singleness (On My Way with Catherine DeNeuve) and enjoying each other's company. RSVP to Claudette at [973-768-6047](tel:973-768-6047)(texts preferred) or reply to this email to declare your intentions.

Friday, February 22, 6:30 pm: Singles Monthly Dinner at Yupha's Thai Kitchen (1805 E. Elliot RD Suite 115, Tempe 85284, SE corner Elliot & McClintock)

Join us at this charming restaurant for some great food and great conversation. RSVP to Claudette at [973-768-6047](tel:973-768-6047) (texts preferred) or reply to this email to declare your intentions.



BROWN BAG LUNCH WITH REV. ANDY

On the first Wednesday of each month at noon, join Rev. Andy in the Office Board Room for lunch and a chat.
-February 6-

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR MARCH IS FEBRUARY 17



Happy Hour Friday, Friday, February 15, 4:30, Va Bene, 4647 E. Chandler BLVD, Phoenix, 480-706-4070

Celebrate Day-AFTER-Valentines at Va Bene, another favorite! \$5 Happy Hour Menu including Bruschetta, Fried Ravioli, Meatballs, Mozzarella Sticks, Squid Salad (for the adventurous!), Cozze Tarragon and more. \$5 draft, \$3.50 domestic, \$1 off all wine, and best of all, great conversations! RSVPs have been made for the bar area in the name VUU so if you want

to come, please contact Susan Lacy at lacynoe@yahoo.com. Wayfarers are 'travelers' who meet at a different location throughout the valley each month. Anyone is welcome to join us, just let me know. I try to make actual reservations for the number from whom I've heard so the restaurant will be waiting for us, and hopefully staffed appropriately. Va Bene staff have always been great. Hope to see you there, since I might actually be able to join you all! And stay tuned for upcoming Happy Hours!

EastVUUs Thursday, February 14 - 6PM

Do you live way out in the east valley? We are building community of East-sider UUs and would love to have you join us for fellowship, food, faith discussions and social justice.

SOCIAL ACTION:

Immigration Update & Asylum Travel Food Donation Collection

DISCUSSION: TBA for  Valentine Day!

Join us for our monthly potluck before our discussion. Please bring a dish to pass & your own service-ware.

Apache Wells Community Center,
2215/2223 N. 56th St., Mesa, AZ 85215

Follow the "Welcome UU" signs to the building.

CONTACT:

Margaret Stewart mjs.ontheroad@gmail.com



VUU WOMEN'S GROUP

All women are welcome at our meetings. The purpose of our group is to get better acquainted with one another by talking about a variety of subjects. Our next meeting will be Sunday, February 24th after the second service (approximately 12:30). We will gather at the front of the sanctuary after filling our plates in the kitchen. Please bring a dish to share. If you haven't brought a dish, stay anyway. We always have plenty of food.

The discussion topic will be announced at a later date.

Contacts: Margaret Stewart, mjs.ontheroad@gmail.com or Johnnie Godfrey, 480-231-8381 (accepts texts) johnniegirl85218@gmail.com.



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

Your Neighborhood Contacts are:

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

Carl Anderson

480-529-4365

canderaz@cox.net

Donna Bennett

480-570-4024

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

lperry98@earthlink.net

Tempe South - Zips: 85283, 85284

DiAnna Farmer

480-413-0293

dianna_farmer@hotmail.com

Sabena Norman

904-307-6996

sabena.norman@gmail.com

Mesa West - Zips: 85201, 85202, 85210

Mary Jo Bitner

480-831-5518

Debbe Simpkins

480-244-6570

friendsofdebbe@gmail.com

Mesa East, including Apache Junction:

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

Joel Sannes

480-464-6772

joelsannes@gmail.com

Rebekah Thomas

443-890-5387

rkendri@hotmail.com

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

Neighborhood Contacts Needed!

Madeline Kasian

480-349-3080

maddie628@gmail.com

Chandler

North - Zips: 85224, 85226

South, including Sun Lakes, Queen Creek, Casa Grande

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

Barbara Face

480-961-3223

barbara_face@qwest.net

Nancy Wittenberg

480-704-0494

nancy.wittenberg@gmail.com

(zips 85225 and 85224)

***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.



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

VUU STAFF

The Reverend Andy Burnette, Senior Minister
The Reverend Kellie Walker Hart, Minister of Music
Marci Beaudoin, Director of Faith Formation
Hayley Wynne, Faith Formation Assistant
Sue Ringler, Congregation Administrator
Joe Martin, Maintenance Technician
Jill Khaleghi, pianists

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 Bob Fabre, Vice President & Board Rep. to Finance Committee
 Paul Schneider, Treasurer/Financial Analyst
 Karl Hurst-Wicker, Secretary
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