

# VUUPOINT JANUARY 2020



Valley  
Unitarian  
Universalist  
CONGREGATION

*Sunday Service*

*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/>

*Your Sunday Bulletin and Order of Worship are now posted on the website.*

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

*Happy New Year!*

*January's Theme is Leadership/Authority*

**January 5 Servant Leadership**

**Rev. Sue Ringler**

**January 12 The School of the Congregation: The Authority to Teach One Another**

**Rev. Dr. Andy Burnette**

**January 19 MLK and Social Class: The Poor Peoples Campaign**

**Rev. Dr. Andy Burnette**

**January 26 White Supremacy and Assumed Authority:**

**The Ballad of Harry Moore and Civil Rights in 2020**

**Rev. Dr. Andy Burnette**

### Upcoming Events at a Glance

1/01 Happy New Year! <i>Check the tables on the Patio!</i>	1/14 Al-Anon Group every Wed @7PM
1/04 Social Suppers	1/16 The Page Turners Book Club
1/05 YRUU mUUVie night	1/17 Wayfarers Happy HoUUr
1/06 CCC Meeting	1/19 Dr. Kevin Gibson's lecture on Fracking
CPC Meeting	1/20 Leadership Development Meeting
1/07 Chalice Ringers & Adult Choir practice begins	1/23 Board Meeting
1/09 EastVUU Gathering	1/24 VUU Singles Dinner Out
1/10 AA Open Meeting every Fri @ 6:30AM	1/25 Michael Lewis Concert
Paz de Cristo	1/26 VUU Women's Group
1/12 VUUJAZ Meeting	Desert Lotus Zen Group
	1/30 *New Date – Spirit of Life Group

Every Sunday – Dalai Lama & Friends

## Aural Compass Projects presents Much has Fallen Silent



An evening honoring and celebrating the lives of five Jewish composers who were affected by the Holocaust.

**Daveda Karanas, mezzo-soprano**

with pianist Michael Lewis

Works by:

**FREE  
Admission**

**Pavel Haas, Viktor Ullmann, Ilse Weber  
Mieczysław Weinberg, and Rosy Wertheim**

Monday, January 25, 2020 at 7:30pm (lecture starting at 7pm)  
Valley Unitarian Universalist at 6400 W Del Rio St, Chandler, AZ 85226



## ***A MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING BOARD PRESIDENT***

JANUARY 2020

Well, here we are at the beginning of a new decade. Can you believe we're already 20 years into the new century? What might the term 2020 mean to us? Of course, there's the new year with all of its resolutions and hope for a better year than 2019. Then, there's the television program that attempts to bring depth and clarity to a current story or issue. And, there's also the eye test, where 2020 means we don't need glasses or contacts. Let's pause to think about crystal clear vision.

From comments swirling around our congregation, I have the distinct suspicion that VUU's two campaigns, operational and capital, have confused quite a few people. So, let me try to focus our collective vision a bit. The capital campaign was undertaken to acquire the money needed to create oUUr faith oasis for the future. You were asked to think about this then promise to donate, over three years, money toward that future.

At almost the same time the capital campaign for our future began, our annual pledge drive, which we called the operational campaign, began. So, where's the confusion? Some people who pledged to donate to the capital campaign think that the one promise covered both the creation of our future faith oasis *and* the annual operational expenses. But, it did not.

As you know, our faith community has expenses like any family does – mortgage, utilities, yard upkeep, and salaries. But, in addition, we have expenses for the programs we create and offer – all levels of education, expenses for sound and visual equipment for services, the cost of music for our incredible singers and musicians, etc. Like many families, our operational budget is much like yours. We periodically figure out about how much money we expect during the year, and then, we decide where and how to spend that money. And, like you, if the monies pledged for next year do not at least meet the monies pledged for this year, we must take a very serious look at where to put the money we do get. This might involve trimming programs, or even cutting some.

There are fearless people in our UU community who have volunteered to contact those from whom we have no record of an operational pledge. They use snail mail, email, texts, phone calls, and Sunday morning conversations to persuade these non-pledgers to complete the pledge cards – even if the pledge is for zero or even \$5 (for the year). The return of these pledge cards lets our VUU budgeteers know that everyone has been contacted and they have X amount of money to allocate for 2020. Your pledge gives them clear vision. So, if you have not yet returned your pledge card, please take a few minutes during this busy holiday season to think about all that VUU offers our community, and with that clear vision, pledge whatever amount your own family's budget can afford.

P.S. You can pledge online at [vuu.org](http://vuu.org) (click on the **GIVE** tab in the blue bar at the top of the web page), or grab a pledge card at the back of the sanctuary, complete it, and put it in either the offering plate or the gold and silver box near the palm trees at the back of the sanctuary. And, from our entire VUU family, thanks for your generosity!

Susan Keen, Ph.D., Acting President, VUU Board of Trustees

## Faith Formation Ministry January 2020



### Next Our Whole Lives class

Kindergarten & 1<sup>st</sup> graders (and their parents!) Parent & Child Mandatory Orientation is Jan 12<sup>th</sup> 12:30 – 3:45 pm in room 2 in the education complex. See attached flier.



Class will meet 9 – 10 am on eight (8) Sunday mornings.

Pre-register by contacting Marci [faithform@vuu.org](mailto:faithform@vuu.org) OR sign up at the faith formation sign-in table.

NOTE: each OWL class is only offered ONCE per age group, this class will not be available again for 2 years.

## **NEW THIS YEAR: Camp Scholarships**

\$200 camp scholarships given to youth with highest Sunday morning faith formation class attendance. Funds will be sent directly to Camp de Benneville Pines for the following camps.

- Elementary winter camp
- Elementary summer camp
- High school winter camp
- Middle school summer camp
- High school summer camp

### **ADULT FAITH FORMATION PROGRAMMING**

**Great news:** We now have childcare EVERY Sunday BEFORE and AFTER worship service so adults can attend faith formation programs. All ages of children are welcome, check them into the childcare room (#6) and they can to play until you are done with your program. Feel free to bring the kids lunch or a snack.

### **New Program**

The 2019-20 UUA Common Read (weeknight program)

### **An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States**

**Monday evenings, Feb 3rd, March 2nd, and April 6th at 7 p.m. in the VUU Board room.**

Seating is limited so please contact Jayne Burgess to reserve your spot. 480-940-8877 or [Jayne@JayneBurgess.com](mailto:Jayne@JayneBurgess.com).

Today there are more than 500 federally recognized indigenous nations comprising almost 3 million people, descendants of the 15 million native people who once inhabited this land. The centuries-long genocidal regime has largely been omitted from history. This book covers more than 400 hundred years of policies that seized their lands and went about eliminating the peoples and helps us look at our history from a different perspective.

Purchase your book at the UUA bookstore: <https://www.uuabookstore.org/An-Indigenous-Peoples-History-of-the-United-States-P17699.aspx>.

You can also get an audiobook from Audible: <https://www.audible.com/pd/An-Indigenous-Peoples-History-of-the-United-States-Audiobook/B00P1RW1CC>.

UUA Common Read info: <https://www.uua.org/books/read>



## 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**

**\*9 – 10 am, room 5: 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](mailto:DavidBlackDLF@gmail.com)

**Every Sunday – childcare is available at 8:30 am in the room #6**



## The Page Turners Book Club (offsite, evening meeting)

We have some interesting books selected to read in 2020. Come join us when the book is of interest to you and you would like to discuss it with others. We even have yummy snacks. A sneak peak at the reading listing for the first few months of 2020:

- January 16 – Conclave by Robert Harris
- February 20 – Flight by Sherman Alexie
- March 19 – Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens
- April 16 – Unsheltered by Barbara Kingsolver
- May 21 – The Line Becomes a River by Francisco Canto

We will meet on **January 16, 2020 at 7:15 pm** at the home of Johnnie Godfrey in Tempe.

Conclave is a novel about the election of a new Pope. Behind the locked doors of the Sistine Chapel, one hundred and eighteen cardinals from all over the globe will cast their votes in the world's most secretive election.

For the meeting address or questions, please contact Johnnie at 480-839-0544, Amy at 480-518-0110, or email: [agmonahan@gmail.com](mailto:agmonahan@gmail.com).

## 7<sup>th</sup> Principle Discussions – Sunday, January 26, 9 a.m. – 10:15 a.m., Board Room

In January our discussion will center on one of the most dynamic areas in science - genetics and genetic engineering. This vast area promises to affect our lives like the digital developments we are now experiencing. Cures for cancers and the ability to address genetic deficiencies are on the horizon. How far away are Designer Babies? Can we create children whose intelligence is beyond current boundaries? Can we delay aging by decades or maybe centuries? We will look at current work and consider the ethical challenges of this revolutionary field.

**The Story of God: Looking at the building blocks of faiths around the world – See the table after Services in January to sign-up for this class.** Led by Sue Keen, materials needed: notebook and pen/pencil

Participants will watch episodes (whole or partial depending on the episode) of The Story of God with Morgan Freeman. Participants will record & discuss how the episode applies to their own beliefs and practices.

## **COLLECT STORIES, NOT STUFF**

### **Exploring Minimalism as a spiritual practice**

Led by DeeAnne McClenahan, **2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays 9 a.m. in the board room.**

We will explore the many facets of minimalism, and how culling our physical worlds allows us to clear out and make room for what is important in our lives. How do we learn to “love people, use things”? Minimalism explores not just how much stuff we have, but the underlying why we have that stuff, and how parting with it allows more time, more money, and greater connection to the people and the causes that fulfill us. We will take small steps together and individually, sharing the experiences and feelings they evoke.

Sources including Marie Kondo, Joshua Fields Milburn, Ryan Nikodemus, Joshua Becker, share their spiritual as well as home-tidying journeys with us, and we with each other.

Imagine having the garages – in both your house and in your mind – neat and orderly. Not just with everything (crammed) in its place, but with the un-useful, the unnecessary, the hurtful and ugly having found new homes, so that the useful and the necessary, the soul-feeding and the beautiful, can live out loud...can thrive.

## **Spirit of Life Reading Circle**

**Thursday, January 30, in Rooms 1 and 2, from 7:00 until 8:30.**

**Led by Mary Rothschild, Rebecca Riggs, & Anne Schneider**

A monthly, ongoing group which will read and discuss books, printed sermons, poetry and articles that deal with spiritual and theological issues and ideas that matter to Unitarian Universalists. It is open to anyone who is excited to discuss readings fundamental to Unitarian Universalism.

To sign up, please email [maryloganrothschild@gmail.com](mailto:maryloganrothschild@gmail.com) or [anne.schneider1941@gmail.com](mailto:anne.schneider1941@gmail.com) We hope you will join us!

These programs are full:

**A Room with A VUU** Remaining Session Dates: Jan 19 & 26, Feb 16 & 23

**CAKES FOR THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN, PART 2**



### **RECYCLE USED ORAL CARE PRODUCTS**

**ANY BRAND** – Toothbrushes, toothpaste tubes, floss containers, & packaging

Collection box is on the faith formation table at the back of the sanctuary.





## OUR WHOLE LIVES for “Barn Owls” K-gr.1 Children & Parents’ Combo Class

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

This class will address topics, such as anatomy, family structures, how babies are made and safe touch.

Parents are in the class with their child as active participants. The goal is to open communication within the family, because parents are a child’s primary sexuality educator.

### A Mandatory Orientation for Children and Parents

**Sunday, January 12 from 12:30-3:30 p.m.**

**Education Complex – Room 2**

**Complimentary childcare provided, advance notice requested.**

**SCHEDULE:** The course consists of (8) 1-hour sessions. Class will be held Sunday mornings in Room 2 from 9-10 a.m. January 26 through April 5 (*class will NOT meet on 1/19 for MLK Day, 2/16 for Presidents’ Day, 3/15 for Spring Break.*) Snack will be provided. This is a covenanted class, and full attendance is expected. Each class has a homework assignment.

### **RECOMMENDED TEXTS:**

- (1) *Parent Guide to Our Whole Lives for Grade K-1 and Grades 4-6.* Boston: UUA, 2006. **\$15**
- (2) *It’s So Amazing! A Book about Eggs, Sperm, Birth, Babies and Families* by Robie Harris. Cambridge, Mass.: Candlewick Press, 1999. **\$13**

Both texts will be available for purchase at the Orientation Meeting.

Alternative to purchasing books: The lending library has older versions of both books that you may choose to check-out.

**FEE: \$50 per child.** The non-refundable fee covers snacks and class supplies.

Discounts: Families that pledge to Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation: -\$10

Families enrolling multiple children: -\$5 per additional child

**CHILDCARE:** One-time \$10 fee for the first child, \$5 for additional children for duration of class.

**TO REGISTER:** Contact Marci Beaudoin, VUU Dir. Faith Formation at [faithform@vuu.org](mailto:faithform@vuu.org) or 480-899-4249.

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





### HEY, CHARLIE BROWN! YOU'RE NOT TOO LATE TO HAVE **FUUND**!!

I bet your first New Year's resolution for 2020 was to find new ways to become involved in VUU and to support our congregation's quest to create lives of integrity, service, and joy. Why not begin by donating an event or service to the **2020 FUUND Together** auction? All you have to do is:

- 1) Think of a party, dinner, lesson, service, custom handicraft or art, or any kind of **FUUND** event you can host for old and new friends at VUU. Need ideas? Just ask!!
- 2) REGISTER your donation. Pick up a donation form at the **FUUND Together** table after the service or email [fuundtogether@vuu.org](mailto:fuundtogether@vuu.org). **The deadline for donations is Sunday, January 11th!**

**FUUND Together** offers unique opportunities to spend time with old and new friends while raising **FUUNds** to support VUU. This is our largest **FUUND**raiser and year round community builder. Please come see us on the patio after the service and join the **FUUND**. We need your support and your **FUUND**tastic ideas!! Make this the best year ever for having **FUUND Together** at VUU!! Share your time and talents with VUU by donating a party, dinner, lesson(s), or service to the **2019 FUUND Together** Auction. Visit us on Sunday mornings at the **FUUND** table or email us at [fuundtogether@vuu.org](mailto:fuundtogether@vuu.org).



Photo by Clay Banks on Unsplash





## Pacific Southwest District

PACIFIC WESTERN REGION OF THE UUA

**BIG FAITH, NO BORDERS**

### Save the Date: Embracing the Climate of Justice

### The Big Deal: 2020 UUA Pacific Southwest District Assembly Keynote Speaker Confirmed

**The Date:** April 24-26, 2020

**The Place:** Unitarian Universalists San Luis Obispo, CA

“Embracing the Climate of Justice” is the theme of the 2020 PSW District Assembly scheduled April 24-26, 2020, at Unitarian Universalists San Luis Obispo, Cal.



The keynote speaker will be Aly Tharp, the program director of the [Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth \(UUMFE\)](#) and leader of the UUA & UUMFE's [Create Climate Justice](#) initiative.

Aly Tharp will join UUs from throughout PSWD as we strategize for a future in which our congregations are at the forefront of the fight for climate justice in their communities.

The 2020 PSW District Assembly will be the best opportunity this year for UU congregations to share how they are working for climate justice and learn from one another about how to live out our seventh principle: **“Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.”**

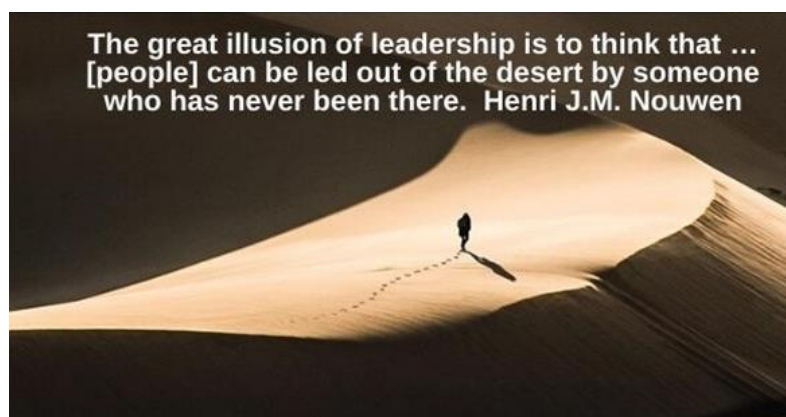
Detailed information coming early in the new year!

Unitarian Universalist San Luis Obispo

2201 Lawton Avenue

San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

[www.UUSLO.org](http://www.UUSLO.org)



The great illusion of leadership is to think that ...  
[people] can be led out of the desert by someone  
who has never been there. Henri J.M. Nouwen

Photo by Finding Dan | Dan Grinwis on Unsplash

# VUU COMMUNITY

January Stewardship Update

We are in the final weeks of this year's Stewardship Campaign. As of this writing, \$317,000 has been pledged towards our 2020 Operating Campaign goal of \$450,000, and \$1.19 million has been pledged towards our \$2.5 million Capital Campaign goal. Many, many thanks to everyone who has pledged so far.

***If you have not yet turned in your Operating Pledge for 2020, please do so now.*** The process of budgeting for the coming year will begin soon. It is imperative that we know how much money will be available for Sunday services, faith formation, social justice, staff, facilities, and all the other day-to-day expenses and programs that are VUU. **Your pledge matters!**

***If you have not yet turned in a three-year Capital Campaign pledge, please do so now.*** The Capital Planning Committee is continuing to work with the architect to build OUUR faith oasis for the future. The final plans will depend on knowing how much funding is available. **Every pledge takes us one step closer to realizing our vision!**

Pledges can be submitted in any of the following ways:

- Use this link to submit your pledges on line: <http://www.vuu.org/2020-stewardship-campaign-pledges/>.
- Pick up pledge cards at the back of the sanctuary, fill them out, and drop them in the offering plate (or in the silver and gold box on the sound booth railing next to the palm trees.)
- Mail your pledge cards to VUU Stewardship Campaign, 6400 W. Del Rio St., Chandler, AZ 85226.
- Schedule a personal visit with a campaign steward by emailing Linda Horton ([lindahorto@cs.com](mailto:lindahorto@cs.com)) or Chris Sar ([csartempe@gmail.com](mailto:csartempe@gmail.com)), or calling the VUU office at 480-899-4249.



**Social Suppers** Would you like to get to know more people from the VUU community? Join the Social Suppers group and participate in monthly potluck dinners. A purely social event, there are no requirements aside from having a good time. On the first Saturday of each month, that will be **January 4** this month. Small groups of 8 or 10 meet at a host's house for a delicious meal with a variety of side dishes. The hosts and attendees are always changing, so each month you will get to meet and visit with new people. Participants are not required to host, and most dietary restrictions can be accommodated. Singles, couples, and families are welcome, and you don't need to be a VUU member to participate. To sign up, please email [circlesuppers@vu.org](mailto:circlesuppers@vu.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 January 2020 are:

**10 to 19 Years:**

*Joel & Melissa Sannes*

**20 to 29 Years:**

*Alice Casey*

*Lynn DeMuth*

**50 to 59 Years:**

*Ginny Sanstedt*

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

## VUU Social Action Ministry

### Promoting Social, Economic and Environmental Justice

#### Paz de Cristo January Donation of the Month: Canned Mixed Vegetables and Canned Corn

Please support our focus charity, Paz de Cristo, by bringing in a donation of canned mixed vegetables and canned corn. Tops with pull tabs are appreciated if possible. Drop your donation in the collection box located in the foyer of the sanctuary. Thank you for your support of Paz!



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. They use the gas for their delivery truck, or they buy fresh food and other groceries that they need.



#### Paz de Cristo needs YOU

Are you looking for another way to serve others? Make a commitment to help feed hungry people at Paz de Cristo on a second Friday of the month. 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 love to serve together as a community. Won't you join us? Send questions to [pazdecristo@vuu.org](mailto:pazdecristo@vuu.org)



### **I-HELP: Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program**

Through our work with the Chandler I-HELP program, VUU provides dinner and overnight shelter for 20-25 individuals three – four nights a month. I-HELP questions? Contact Sue [office@vuu.org](mailto:office@vuu.org). Watch for those sign-ups.



### **Arizona Legislative Alert - Keep up with the latest Legislative news**

Want to keep up on what's happening to social justice legislation in Arizona? Sign up for your own copy of the Arizona Legislative Alert by emailing [legislativeadvocacy@vuu.org](mailto:legislativeadvocacy@vuu.org). The Arizona Legislative Alert is an email newsletter covering social justice and public policy issues in Arizona edited by Anne Schneider.



### **Put Your Paper and Cardboard Recyclables to Good Use**

The woodworking club of the Ahwatukee Recreation Center collects recyclable paper and cardboard in 4 large dumpsters. When the dumpsters are full, the contents are sold to a recycling company. The money obtained from the sale is used to purchase good wood from which club members produce wooden toys for the area's children's hospitals.

On the third Sunday of every month, Sue Keen will accept donations of recyclable paper and cardboard from the congregation. She will deposit all donations in the dumpsters. If you're interested in helping, save your paper and cardboard and give them to Sue on third Sundays! **That's January 19 this month.**





As a part of our aid to refugees in January, we are looking for donations of:

- New, completely unused make-up
- New or gently used nail polish
- New, completely unused toiletries such as shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, toothbrushes, and other cleanliness items are appreciated. Regular sizes or small sizes. We can use them all.

You can donate these items every Sunday for the month of January in the bin marked Refugee Aid located under the bulletin board in the foyer entrance of the Sanctuary. Thank you for the donations you made in December!



VUU is the location of the one-n-ten Chandler Outreach Satellite support group. We will meet every Tuesday evening, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in Rooms 1/2. This group is for LGBTQ+ and Allied Youth, ages 14 - 24



We are looking for someone to coordinate VUU SPECTRUM LGBTQ+. LGBTQ+ outreach, involvement and advocacy are important here at VUU. If this would be an area you may like to help lead here, email Sue, [office@vuu.org](mailto:office@vuu.org).

### Opportunity to help Women4Women Tempe

How much difference can one little bag make? A lot! Women4Women Tempe provides bags containing feminine hygiene products to organizations supporting homeless and low income women. The recipients, who often have nothing, are so grateful for the bags, which both bring a bit of relief into their lives and show that someone cares.

Some of the organizations supported by W4W:

Without Walls Homeless Outreach Ministry

Women's Refugee Health Clinic

Guadalupe Family Resource Center

Paz de Cristo

I-HELP

Native Health

Circle the City

My Sister's Place

Everyone is welcome to assemble bags from **9am to 10:15 a.m. on Saturday February 8<sup>th</sup>** in the Board and Conference rooms in the office building. It's also a fun, low-key way to get to know each other.

Ways to help:

1. Come and help make the bags in February
2. Donate items to fill the bags – more information to come in January regarding what products are needed most.
3. Donate money to purchase the above items.



Lauree Perry will cheerfully accept your donations of either monies or products anytime. Please look for her in the Sanctuary on Sundays.

For more info contact Lauree ([lperry98@earthlink.net](mailto:lperry98@earthlink.net))

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



# VUU GATHERINGS



**January 9**

EastVUU meets the 2nd Thursday of every months at **Apache Wells Community Center, 2223 N. 56th St., Mesa, AZ 85215 (Follow Signs)**

**This month in the Pima Room, located in the Activity building just south of the Navajo Room, #2233.**



**THURSDAY, JANUARY 9 PROGRAM - Join us at EastVUU with like-hearted people for fellowship, spiritual growth and progressive social justice.**

**EYEWITNESS TO THE INHUMANITY OF "REMAIN IN MEXICO" MPP CAMPS FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS**

2 Speakers:

Jay, a UU from southern AZ who volunteers in one of these camps below the Douglas border.

Sarah, volunteer with Refugee Aid for their project to provide needed supplies to MPP camp below the Yuma border.

Photos below show the just a tip of this cruelty to parents & their children who have the right to seek asylum but are forced to wait months in these camps. This puts them at the mercy of cartels and Mexican national guard bribery.

Humanitarian aid groups on the ground try to keep up with taking care of food supplies, shelter, medical & legal needs. Find out more about what we can do to help.

6:00 pm - JOIN US FOR A POTLUCK - If able, bring a small dish to pass & own tableware. All are welcome otherwise come just for the program.

6:45 - Welcome & lighting of the UU Chalice

6:50 - Sharon Kopina, (Somos America) update on Nationwide grassroots assistance program for asylum seekers using Greyhound for transportation to families.

7:00 - Jay on his work in MPP camp followed by Sarah on the logistics of how supplies reach the MPP camp. Question period at end.

8:25 - Extinguishing the UU Chalice Light

IF YOU ARE ON FACEBOOK, PLEASE GO TO OUR GROUP <https://www.facebook.com/groups/EastVUUs/> AND SHARE THE POSTING FOR THIS MEETING TO YOUR OWN TIMELINE OR LOCAL ACTIVIST GROUPS ETC.

#### additional reading sources:

[https://tucson.com/news/local/asylum-seekers-still-released-in-tucson-despite-new-border-program/article\\_ecab040d-e85a-5a20-b140-d6536e90d611.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://tucson.com/news/local/asylum-seekers-still-released-in-tucson-despite-new-border-program/article_ecab040d-e85a-5a20-b140-d6536e90d611.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&utm_campaign=user-share)

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-mexico-idUSKBN1YN03E>

#### IF ABLE, please bring donation needs:



- Rice
- Cups
- Forks
- Plates
- Toilet paper
- Soap
- large can diced tomatoes
- large can tomato sauce
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Creams and powders for blisters
- Deodorant
- Dish detergent
- Laundry detergent
- Socks - all sizes & gender
- Coats - all sizes baby to median adults
- Hats
- Blankets
- Sheets



### **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](mailto:claudettewassil@hotmail.com) and she'll get

you on the list.



**Saturday, January 18, 6:15PM:** Film Night at Renee's (4761 E Pawnee Cir, Ahwatukee)

Join us for an evening of food, friends, film. Currently, the movie and cuisine theme are TBD, so please keep your eyes peeled for an email. Please RSVP to Claudette by text (preferred 973-768-6047) or email ([claudettewassil@hotmail.com](mailto:claudettewassil@hotmail.com)).

**Friday, January 24, 6:15PM:** Dinner at Lalibela Ethiopian Restaurant (849 W University Dr, Tempe, SE Corner of University & Hardy)

This restaurant has become a favorite of our group. Come break bread with us and enjoy a taste of something different. Lalibela has an expansive menu with many different meat, vegetarian, and combo dishes to try, as well as several Ethiopian drink options. Please RSVP to Claudette by text (preferred 973-768-6047) or email ([claudettewassil@hotmail.com](mailto:claudettewassil@hotmail.com)).



**WAYFARERS, Friday, January 17, 4:30 - ?, but WHERE?** THAT'S the question! I have not booked a January location because I've run out of time for a number of reasons. But I have some ideas so watch future VUU publications to see where! Wayfarers are 'travelers' who meet at different locations each month throughout the valley. Anyone is welcome to join us. You don't need to be a VUU member or even an attendee!



### **Women's Group Sunday January 26, 2020**

Let's start the new year by endeavoring to get better acquainted with one another. All women are welcome. We will meet in the kitchen and sanctuary after the service, approximately 11:45, for a simple potluck luncheon and casual conversation about New Year's resolutions. Do you make resolutions? If you made resolutions this January first, have you already broken them? In the past have you made a resolution that changed your life?

Please bring a dish to share, but if you haven't brought one, feel free to stay.

**Contacts:** Margaret Stewart: [mjs.ontheroad@gmail.com](mailto:mjs.ontheroad@gmail.com) 508-662-6348, Johnnie Godfrey: [johnniegirl85218@gmail.com](mailto:johnniegirl85218@gmail.com) 480-231-8381

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY IS JANUARY 19**



**Exciting opportunities await interested parties in several of our dynamic committees, including Special Funds, Board of Trustees, and Leadership Development Committee. If you'd like to know more, please contact anyone on the current Leadership Development Committee: Ken St John, Tom Briggs, Beverly McCormick, Lynn Demuth, Jodi Cicirello, or Susan Lacy. Great ways to learn more and help with our amazing VUU community!**



Photo by Randy Tarampi on Unsplash

**The members of VUU's Dalai Lama group are working together on the important effort outlined below. We invite all VUUers to help:**

"Today a reader, tomorrow a leader." Margaret Fuller

Used Book Drive for Mesa & Phoenix  
Juvenile Detention Facilities

Please help us fill two libraries at the Mesa (SEF) and Phoenix (Durango) Youth Detention Facilities.

Any and all **soft cover** books are needed. All types of books: fiction, non-fiction, classics, modern fiction, history, biography, travel, careers, religion, nature, animals, cooking, language, math, writing, music, art, self-help, politics, international, health. We have all reading levels encompassing children ages 8-18. Adult and children books are needed.

We also need books in Spanish!

Please help make a difference in the lives of children in Maricopa County!

Questions? Please call or text either of the following VUU members: Linda (Brown) Christian, Office of the Legal Advocate at 602-527-1092 or Barbara Boehm, 602-705-3478. We will be glad to arrange a drop off/pick up location with you including connecting with you at VUU on Sundays.

Thank you!



## Caring & Concerns Neighborhood Contacts

We hope the coming year will be a wonderful one for all of the members and friends at VUU. 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 help.

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

lperry98@earthlink.net

Tempe South - Zips: 85283, 85284

DiAnna Farmer 480-413-0293

Sabena Norman 904-307-6996

dianna\_farmer@hotmail.com

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

Nancy Wittenberg

480-283-4725

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.

Email is [caring@vuu.org](mailto:caring@vuu.org). You can 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**

*Reverend Dr. Andy Burnette, Senior Minister*  
*Katie Seiferth, Acting Director of Music*  
*Marci Beaudoin, Director of Faith Formation*  
*Hayley Wynne, Faith Formation Assistant*  
*Sue Ringler, Congregation Administrator & Social Action Coordinator*  
*Joe Martin, Maintenance Technician*  
*David Berry, Pianist*

#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

*Sue Keen, Acting President*  
*Bob Fabre, Vice President & Board Rep. to Finance Committee*  
*DeeAnne McClenahan, Treasurer/Financial Analyst*  
*Debi Grande, Secretary*  
*Joan Bundy*  
*Linda Stenholm*