



VUUPOINT FEBRUARY 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 is now posted on the website.

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

February's Theme is Generosity

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| February 2 Abundance: The Foundation of Generosity | Rev. Dr. Andy Burnette |
| February 9 The Widow's Empty Barrel: Lesson of Generosity from Judaism | Rev. Dr. Andy Burnette |
| February 16 Which Justice? | Sue Andrews |
| February 23 Fear, Greed, and Scarcity: The Enemies of Generosity | Rev. Dr. Andy Burnette |

Upcoming Events at a Glance

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 2/03 UUA Common Read | 2/16 A Room with a VUU |
| 2/06 Spirit of Life Reading Circle | Journey to Membership |
| Unity Initiative | Paper/Cardboard Recycle |
| 2/07 Singles Game Night | 2/20 The Page Turners |
| 2/09 Congregational Conversation | 2/21 Wayfarers Happy HoUUr |
| FF Trip Paperwork Due | 2/22 LDC Workshop |
| Collect Stories not Stuff | 2/23 Compassion in Action |
| Journey to Membership | Women's Group |
| 2/13 "Hidden Secrets"-an Exploration of Race | A Room with a VUU |
| 2/15 Singles Valentine Party | Spectrum Meets |
| 2/16 CCL Presentation | 2/27 EastVUUs Social Night |
| 2/16 CCL Presentation | 2/28 Dance Party |
| Newsletter Deadline | Singles Monthly Dinner |

Sundays

2020 **FUUNd** Together auction

Dalai Lama & Friends

Wednesdays

One*n*Ten

*“But I give best when I give from that deeper place;
 when I give simply, freely and generously, and sometimes for no
 particular reason. I give best when I give from my heart.”*

– Steve Goodier



“A Moment with the Minister”

I’m thrilled that this month, we will be focusing on the theme of generosity. I think we stand a good chance of keeping this gorgeous planet of ours around for my great-great-grandchildren if we can shift our thinking toward generosity.

One form of generosity is to give something important for the greater good. I thank you for your generosity in every worship service, and I talk about your giving of your time, your talent, and your finances to the mission of Valley UU Congregation. Without all of us pitching in, there would be no VUU. Our generosity brings something beautiful into being.

As important as that is, I think it’s even more important to cultivate a worldview that is rooted in generosity. It takes practice. We can start by looking around.

Our shared planet is radically generous. Life shoots up from the ground, flies through the air, and burrows just under our feet. Miracles all around! Some religious traditions see a god in every tree, bird, and javelina, and even make offerings to the spirits that inhabit them. If you’re interested in preserving the earth, there are worse ideas than thinking of every living thing as holy.

The mortal enemy of generosity is scarcity thinking, especially because it leads to scarcity in reality. Most of us grieve what the human species is doing to the earth. Much of it, from the deforestation of the Amazon to the death of species to the pollution of our shared waters, stems from our fear that there isn’t enough to go around. We store up money against a feared future calamity. We buy stuff we don’t need as ‘retail therapy,’ hoping to salve our hurting hearts. And that’s to say nothing of corporations, which are really just a whole bunch of people doing things together, that recklessly endanger us in their quest for the next million dollars. ‘There’s never enough’ is the mantra of scarcity.

Scarcity thinking is the offspring of our fear of our mortality. To be sure, we live in a time of amazing scientific advancement. We sometimes seem to think we have evolved past seeing God in every nook and cranny of the universe the way our forebears did. But without their focus on the afterlife and the continued existence of the spirit after death, we are left to stare directly into the end of our days. Science has brought us a long, long way. But we would do well to couple it with serious spiritual work if we are going to begin to live within our means as a species.

We start with ourselves. On a recent trip to Flagstaff, my family and I stopped by The Magic Store, where I bought a set of what the owner of the store told me are Buddhist prayer beads. Lately, my spiritual practice has been to roll those beads between my fingers and, with every passing bead, to simply say ‘life is enough.’ It helps me calm down and remember that the world has enough if I am realistic about what I need. If I don’t let greed and fear force me into a scarcity-based consumer mindset.

Pretty soon, I remember that if there’s enough for me, there’s enough for everyone, and that since the earth gave them life just like it did me, they ought to have what they need. And, grounded by my own certainty of life’s generosity, I can get to work doing my part to make sure that my neighbors have sustenance.

I hope that more and more, our society can remember that if we all pull together, there’s plenty for each of us. And that we will be generous enough to share all the miraculous blessings that we experience every day.

With love,
Rev. Andy

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

TIME, TALENT, INCOME AND INFLUENCE

I first heard this phrase in a UCC Church in Meriden, CT. It has stuck with me over the years because it simply and beautifully articulates the requirements for membership in almost any religious organization. Also, as I retired, I had more time and talent than income, so the balance of my contributions shifted. This month, I ask for you to adopt this phase in service to VUU. Here are some opportunities.

- On Sunday, February 9, VUU will hold a congregational conversation after the usual Sunday service. A light lunch will be served. The first item on the agenda will be a congregational vote on [by-laws changes](#). A quorum of the congregation *must be in attendance at the time of the vote*, so this item will be #1 on the agenda. A little bit of your time will have a big influence! Other agenda items include:
 - The stewardship drive results
 - The status of VUU's budget
 - The Capital Campaign results
 - The status of the Capital Plan for transformation of our campus
- Mary Wolf-Francis has agreed to give of her time and talent by accepting appointment to the Board to fill one of two vacancies. We welcome her and her extensive talent in working with non-profit organizations.
- On February 22, the Leadership Development Committee (formerly known as the Nominating Committee) will hold a workshop from 9-11:30 in Rooms 1 & 2 across the parking lot from the sanctuary. The meeting is for everyone who is currently leading a committee or board, participating in a committee or board, or who might be interested in becoming part of a committee or board. There will be some training in leadership, food, good company, and good information.
- The entire month of February could be called "FUUND Times at VUU." VUUers have donated over 100 items to be in this silent auction fund raiser. Every Sunday, tables on the patio will be covered with photos and descriptions of treasures – from delicious dinners to vacation getaways to crafty workshops to healthy activities and more. Take some time to browse this treasure and bid, bid, bid!

I know that this month, I concentrated on the "time" piece of "Time, Talent, Income, Influence," but stay tuned in upcoming months for possibilities on the other parts of this phrase.

Susan Keen, Ph.D.
Acting President



Photo by Ronni Kurtz on Unsplash

Faith Formation Ministry February 2020

MULTI-AGE SERVICE TRIP TO AGUA PRIETA, MEXICO

Join us on a cross-cultural experience of a lifetime. Spend 3 days / 2 nights working on life-enhancing projects in a border town along the US – Mexico border. We work with Rancho Feliz Charitable Organization, which provides safe dorm-style accommodations, instruction on the projects, and meals.

WHERE – Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico – across the border from Douglas, AZ

WHEN – Friday, March 13 – Sunday, March 15

COST – \$200 per participant includes transportation, food, housing, & building supplies. (drivers needed – we will caravan to the border where we will meet our guide.)

REQUIRED:

1. Valid passport or passport card for every person (copy to Marci)
2. [Service trip application](#) (download – everyone needs pp. 1-3, youth need p. 4 NOTARIZED)
3. [Rancho Feliz Liability-Release](#) (download – everyone needs pp. 3-4, youth also need p.5)
4. 12 – 13 year old youth must be accompanied by a parent/guardian

DATES TO KNOW:

- February 9th – all paperwork and final payment due to Marci
- March 1st, 1-3 pm – Service trip meeting for all participants, room 2
- March 13th, 9 am – leave VUU
- March 15th, 6 pm – return to VUU

Paperwork available <https://www.vuu.org/edu/multi-generational-service-trip/>

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 play until you are done with your program. Feel free to bring the kids lunch or a snack.

New Programs:

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.

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>

Ancient Chanting from Sacred Traditions

Tuesday evenings 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm, in Room 5.

Led by Stephen Parsons

Stephen will lead a series of chants (vocal prayers) from ancient India. Each chant is followed by a short period of silence. Typically, these chants, repeating the names of God, are performed in Sanskrit with a particular rhythm and melody. We make it easy by providing printed words and a musical sound tract for added richness.

Because of the spread of meditation and yoga, people in many parts of the world practice these sacred songs. Performance artists like Krishna Das and Deva Premal have helped popularize this special sound.

If you enjoy singing and appreciate sacred tradition, you are welcome to join us.

The Story of God: Looking at the building blocks of faiths around the world

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.

Continuing Adult Faith Formation Programs

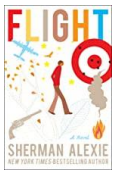
Spirit of Life Reading Circle

1st Thursday of the month, 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 or anne.schneider1941@gmail.com. We hope you will join us!



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 peek at the reading listing for the first few months of 2020:

- 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 Cantó

We will meet on **February 20, 2020 at 7:15 pm** at the home of Johnnie Godfrey in Tempe. Will be discussing Flight by Sherman Alexie. This novel is a portrait of an orphaned Indian boy who travels back and forth through time in a charged search for his true identity. With powerful and swift, prose, *Flight* follows this troubled foster teenager--a boy who is not a "legal" Indian because he was never claimed by his father--as he learns that violence is not the answer.

Come join us when the book is of interest to you and you would like to discuss it with others.

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



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

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

COLLECT STORIES, NOT STUFF Exploring Minimalism as a spiritual practice

Led by DeeAnne McClenahan, **Feb 9th, 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.

7th Principle Discussions

We will meet on **Sunday, Feb. 23 @ 9 a.m. in the Board Room.** This month we will talk about your favorite environmentally friendly household products. How do you protect the environment in your daily living?

For Christmas my daughter gave me a "Care" package of household items that minimize their environmental effects. Come see these and bring your own ideas/samples of cleaners, beauty products, etc that consider the task at hand as well as the world around us!

These programs are full:

[A Room with A VUU](#) Remaining Session Dates: 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.

SPECIAL EVENTS

2020 **FUUNd** Together

Get ready to have some **FUUN**!! The 2020 **FUUNd** Together auction begins on Sunday, February 2nd and continues on Sunday mornings throughout the month. The auction catalog is now available on the VUU website: <https://www.vuu.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2020-Lets-Have-FUUNd-Together-Catalog.pdf> Use it to plan your bidding strategy! Let's Have **FUUNd** Together this year!

Journey to Membership Sessions 2020

Upcoming Sessions (Pick One):

- **Sunday February 9 and 16, 2020**
 - Noon until 2:30 p.m., VUU Board Room
- **Sunday April 26 and May 3, 2020**
 - Noon until 2:30 p.m., VUU Board Room
- **Sunday August 16 and 23, 2020**
 - Noon until 2:30 p.m., VUU Board Room



Led by Rev. Dr. Andy Burnette and Jodi Cicirello

If you have been attending Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation (VUU), and are interested in membership, learning more about Unitarian Universalism, VUU, and meeting other newcomers, this is for you!

Contact the VUU office at office@vuu.org to register. Lunch provided, and babysitting is available if requested in advance.

Please sign up for just ONE session – two dates per session, and if you decide to join, there will be an opportunity to do so by signing the Membership Book at the end of the session. A recognition ceremony will take place during the worship service a week or two after the session.

Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation

6400 W Del Rio St, Chandler, AZ 85226, 480-899-4249, www.vuu.org

SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, February 28, 2020 - 7:00PM - 10:00PM

ATTEND OUR FUNDRAISING DANCE PARTY TO BENEFIT OUR VUU YOUTH PROGRAMS - BRING THE FAMILY!!



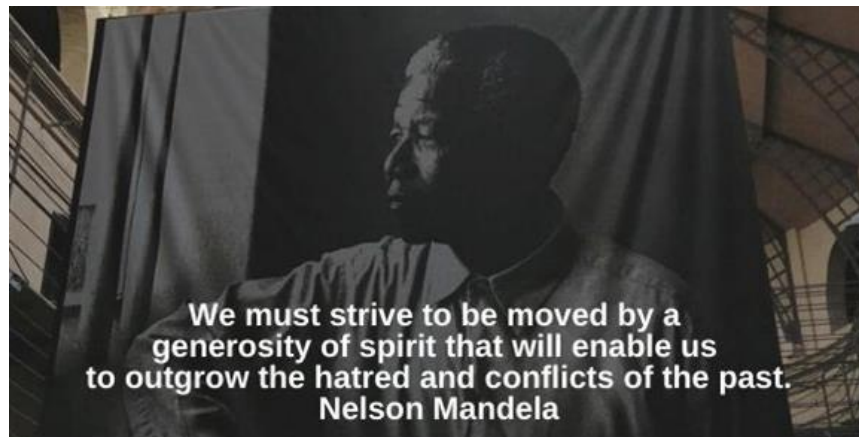
The Soulstice Band has generously offered to play at a Fundraising Dance Party to benefit the youth programs of our congregation. Music and dancing will start at 7:00PM, with a 30-minute intermission around 8:00.

Casual attire. For those who are not familiar with the group, The Soulstice Band is a family friendly band that plays classic rock from the '60s through the '90s.

There will be a free-will offering at the door and all money raised will be used to support VUU youth programs.

For further information, call Sue Ringler, Administrator at the VUU Office, 480-899-4249

BE THERE OR BE SQUARE!



We must strive to be moved by a
generosity of spirit that will enable us
to outgrow the hatred and conflicts of the past.
Nelson Mandela

Photo by Igor Eberling on Unsplash

Citizens' Climate Lobby Presentation
Sunday, February 16 right after our Service
Pizza lunch will be served.

Climate change affects us all, and the news seems to be getting worse and more worrisome, but it doesn't all have to be gloom and doom. There are many things that can be done to reduce carbon pollution in our world: personal actions as well as action by cities and businesses towards using more renewable energy, energy efficiency measures, for example. However, to deal with the huge impact of greenhouse gasses (GHG) in our world, systemic change is also needed and needed quickly. Inaction on climate change impacts lower income and minority households disproportionately, but they are also likely to benefit disproportionately with a steady reduction of GHG pollutants.

UU congregations are well equipped to advocate for climate action to benefit all of us, as clearly defined in the 2006 Statement of Conscience regarding the Threat of Global Warming/Climate Change. Climate advocacy can be built in to every UU Principle but particularly the 7th Principle, "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part."

Sandy Whitley, a VUU Congregant and a volunteer with Citizens' Climate Lobby will discuss global warming facts, how pollution affects our world and our health, and one potential solution that is recommended by scientists and economists alike as the most effective way to reduce GHG pollution in our world – a carbon pricing strategy. The climate change issue is big. Collective action to influence our Members of Congress is something we can do right now to make a difference. And as we learn more, we can also talk about it with our family and friends. A well-respected climate scientist, Katherine Hayhoe, says the best thing we can do about climate change is talk about it. Knowledge is power.

Please stay after services on February 16th to hear what you can do to influence your Member of Congress to address our warming world!



Photo by The New York Public Library on Unsplash



Summary of Alternative Food Choices Survey

The survey was designed to assess interest within the VUU community in making alternative food choices to benefit climate issues and in determining resources that might best support those efforts.

A total of 106 people completed the survey. Of these, 73% were female. Approximately 8% were in the 19-30 age group, 8%: 31-40, 19%: 41-50, 15%: 51-60, 32%: 61-70, 16% 71-80, and 2% in the 81-90 age group. A total of 73% were members; 27% attend services but are not members.



Eighty percent of the respondents are working to reduce their intake of animal products in some way, as shown in the following breakdown:

- 25% are currently vegan or vegetarian
- 44% of the respondents are either pescatarian (eats fish, but not meat) or have modified their eating habits to reduce their consumption of animal products
- 11% are considering modifying their food choices

Of those who are actively working to make a change in their diet, 32% are looking to reduce their consumption of red meat; 25%, chicken and turkey; 27%, dairy; 14%, eggs.

Respondents were generally interested in possible resources, as indicated below.

Resource	% Interested
Learning more about the impact of food choices on the environment	83%
Learning more about the health benefits of plant-based eating	78%
Learning strategies to help you make lasting changes in your food choices	75%
Vegetarian/vegan cooking	75%
Shopping for vegetarian/vegan foods	72%
Learning about meat alternatives	68%
Learning more about gardening	68%
Participating in a plant-based eating group with whom to share meals and discuss issues	65%
Learning more about factory farming	65%

VUU COMMUNITY

Compassion in Action February 23

Chalice Lighters: Join Today!

Chalice Lighters is a long-standing program in our UU Pacific Southwest District that allows individual Unitarian Universalists to make small financial contributions to help other Unitarian Universalist congregations in their district with projects, often capital improvements, they otherwise might not be able to afford. There are now nearly **3,000 individual Chalice Lighters** in the Pacific Western Region. It is very much like a UU version of a barn raising, a little from many people can add up to a lot.

Traditionally anyone who agreed to become a chalice lighter would be asked to contribute \$20, 3 times a year for projects like those mentioned above.

Beginning now, it is now possible to have a gift to Chalice Lighters automatically charged to your credit card or debit card as a monthly recurring payment. Will you please consider setting up a **\$5, \$10, or \$20 monthly recurring gift online today** and encourage others at VUU to do so as well? You'll never have to worry about missing another Chalice Lighter call letter, forgetting about whether or not you donated already, or even forgetting about where you put your check book.

It is also possible to make a one-time gift online today to your district's fall, winter, and spring Chalice Lighter calls for the 2019-2020 fiscal year and then not have to worry about making another gift for the next 12 months.

To read more about chalice lighters and learn about the history, please visits:

<https://pswduua.org/about-us/about-the-district/programs/chalice-lighters/>

To set up a recurring monthly gift online or make a one-time gift online, please visit your district's website at:

https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/JH8FfhmAsokvXQZwPzm_UA?t=1563495848

Of course, it is still possible to write a check after receiving a letter about each Chalice Lighter call if you have signed up to receive them. Call letters for fall calls for all four districts are in the process of being sent out.

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 – **Feb 1, 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@vuu.org.



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 popular staple.



Thanks for your continued generosity to Paz. Last month, VUU donated over 100 cans of food! You are making a difference with your support!

In addition, VUU is continuing to collect gas and grocery gift cards for Paz, which helps them maximize their buying power. Fry's are especially appreciated because they can go toward gas or groceries. Gift cards can be placed in the lock box in the foyer. Thanks for your generosity!

Paz de Cristo needs YOU

Are you 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 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'd love to serve with you! Send questions to pazdecristo@vuu.org



(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

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. 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!

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

one-n-ten



VUU will be the location of the **one*n*ten Chandler Outreach Satellite support group**. Meeting every Wednesday evening, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This group is for LGBTQ+ and Allied Youth, ages 14 - 24.



Our meeting this month will be on Sunday, Feb. 23 right after the service in the Board Room. We welcome our new coordinators, Deb Hughes and Haleigh Farrelly. Bring your ideas! We are so proud to be a community outreach satellite site for 1*n*10 but we also want to know what else YOU need from your community regarding LGBTQ+ action, advocacy and education. Plan to attend this important meeting.

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 8th** 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)

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 2020 are:

10 to 19 Years:

Nick Carr

Nancy Egly

Laurie Fagen

Doug Feisler and Carlin Knight

Terrie Guest

Tammy Gilmore

Diane McDaniel

Ina McGinley

Ann Moore

Janice Pittsley

Jerry & Jan Waters

20 to 29 Years:

Mary Jo & Rich Bitner

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

Keep feeling the need for being first. But I want you to be the first in love. I want you to be the first in moral excellence. I want you to be the first in generosity.

-Martin Luther King-



**Did you know that our Rev. Andy now has a podcast?!
You will want to tune-in and subscribe!**

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/827875>

The Long Haul Podcast

“Congregational ministry is rewarding, but it isn’t easy. Many of us struggle to stay in it for the long haul. In this podcast I’ll tell stories of my 20 years in ministry, looking through the lens of Bowen Family Systems Theory for tools that will help clergy calm down, lead better, and stay in longer with more satisfaction.”

VUU GATHERINGS



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.

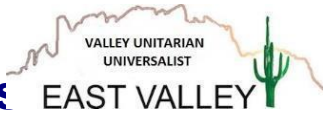


Single's Fun Times

Friday, February 7th, 6:15 pm, Game Night (at Joanne McG, 7333 S. Bonarden Lane, Tempe) 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, juice, 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, call, or email to Joanne at arizonasunsets2@cox.net or 602-620-3100. For last minute directions, contact Joanne.

Saturday, February 15th Valentine's Party at Renee's 6:15pm (4761 E Pawnee Cir, Ahwatukee), It's our 2nd annual Valentine exchange party! Bring a Valentine's Card to exchange with an unknown loved one in the group. Small gift of candy, etc. is optional—It's the love that counts! And a dish to share. Please RSVP, preferably with your dish to Claudette by **text 973-768-6047** or by email if you must at claudettewassil@hotmail.com by Monday February 10th.

Friday, February 28th Singles Dinner Out at Thai Spices, 6:15pm (Mekong Plaza, 66 S. Dobson Rd #133, Mesa.) Come for food and lively conversation to this delicious Thai restaurant that is a favorite with the University crowd. Contact Claudette by **text at 973-768-6047 (preferred)** or by email if you must at claudettewassil@hotmail.com by Monday February 24.



EastVUU **FEBRUARY 13**

Are You Willing to Explore Feelings on Race?

You are welcome to attend a free program called "Hidden Secrets—a Conversation on Race" on the evening of Thursday, Feb 13 in Mesa. The East Valley Unitarian Universalists invite you for potluck and a way to explore our complicated history on race. Come to a new understanding about yourself and others during Black History Month to build the Beloved Community. Beverly McCormick will walk us through interactive exercises to enable self-reflection, empathy and connection.

- Program: Hidden Secrets—an Exploration on Race
- When: Thursday, Feb 13, Potluck 6:00p, Program 7:00 to 8:30p
- Where: Apache Wells Community Center, Maricopa Room
2215 N. 56th St., Mesa, AZ 85215
- Cost: None (Sponsored by Unitarian Universalists of the East Valley)
- Teacher: Beverly McCormick, MA, Education & African American History
- Questions? Margaret, (508) 662-6348, mjs.ontheroad@gmail.com

EastVUUs continue:**FEBRUARY 27th: FUN SOCIAL NIGHT**

Mekong Plaza- Browse, Dinner, Shop

When: 5:30pm meet in the Food Court

Where: Mekong Plaza [66 S. Dobson Rd, Mesa 85202](#)

6:00pm dinner at Mekong Palace

Please RSVP to Perii by 2/25 for dinner reservation, (413)429-6937

**WOMEN'S GROUP MEETING:**

All women are welcome for fellowship, a light potluck luncheon and sharing about books. Have you read a good book lately? Who is your favorite author? If you are not a reader, have you seen a good movie recently? We will meet Sunday February 23, 2020 after the service, about 11:45. We will fill our plates in the kitchen and meet at the front of the sanctuary.

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

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR MARCH IS FEBRUARY 16**WAYFARERS - Happy HoUUr, Friday, February 21, 202, 4:30 p.m. Va Bene, 4647 E Chandler Blvd, Phoenix, 480-706-4040**

Join us at another favorite, Va Bene, the week AFTER Valentine's! 1/2 price for many of their appetizers including Bruschetta and Calamari, \$5 for Fried Ravioli, Meatballs and Mozzarella Sticks. Discounted draft and domestic beers, and \$1 off all wine. Best of all, great conversations! We've had a number of new people joining us so welcome to Wayfarers, 'travelers' who meet at a different location throughout the valley the 3rd Friday of each month. Anyone is welcome to join us., just let me know by **Wednesday, Feb 19** so I can make reservations. Susan Lacy at lacynoe@yahoo.com Seating will then be set up appropriately for us. Hope to see you there!

**Unity Initiative - social-diversity movement**

Unity Initiative is an anti-racism organization seeking to build a socially diverse fellowship. UI is nonpolitical and nonreligious. We combine the principles of **12-step programs** with those of the teachings of **Civil Rights Movements** leaders such as **Gandhi** and **Dr King's**... Think "**Beloved-Community**".

First Thursday of each month (Confirm on our [meetup.com calendar](#) as the date sometimes changes).
6:30pm – 8pm in the VUU R.E. room #5

We start with hors d'oeuvre, then read from the UI text (books are given for **free** at meetings), followed by group discussion on topics of healing from prejudice (our own and other's), racism and our own experiences along with solutions to these maladies.

For more information see our website www.UnityInitiative.org or contact VUU member Doug Nintzel

ISLAMIC CENTER OF THE EAST
VALLEY BRINGS TO YOU:

*An Open Mosque Day
- Come and meet your
Muslim Neighbors -
presented by Imam
Yusha Evans*



*Telling the truth about Islam and Muslims
Come and get answers to common
questions. Myths versus facts? What do
Muslims really believe?*

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH
11 AM - 12:30 PM
REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW**

This event is open to individuals of ALL
faiths. Please invite all your friends and
family to attend.



Islamic Center
of the East
Valley: 425 N.
Alma School
Road, in
Chandler,
Arizona
(between Erie
and Galveston
on Alma
School Road)

Phone :
480-442-7783

Email:
Info@icev.org

<https://www.icev.org/>



Caring & Concerns Neighborhood Contacts

As we settle into the busyness of the beginning of the year, remember to take the time to connect with and appreciate your friends and family. It's the bonds with them that keep us connected. If there's a situation coming up you'll need help with, or you have a joy to share, contact your Neighborhood Contact. We're ready to be of assistance.

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
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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
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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

Nancy Wittenberg (zips 85225 and 85224)	480-283-4725	nancy.wittenberg@gmail.com
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***We need more Neighborhood Contacts to fully cover all areas. If you would like to help strengthen the bonds of community in our congregation, please contact Lauree Perry

There is a way for your joys and sorrows to be mentioned in the newsletter. Just send an email to caring@vuu.org. You can also request to be contacted by the minister, a Lay Pastoral Associate, and/or your Neighborhood Contact this way.



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

VUU STAFF

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

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