

VUUPOINT

November 2016



Sunday Services 10:30 A.M.

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



Sunday Services 10:30 A.M.

Care of the Soul

November 6: *We Gather Together. . . Why?*

Presented by Rebecca Riggs

If you are receiving this newsletter, it is at least somewhat likely that you have a basic belief system that aligns with UUism, but attendance . . . that is a whole different question. Why do some people choose to attend a religious service and others don't? We gather together. . . but why? Could you please attend this service as we explore the value of attendance? The Bell Choir plays and a smaller group from the Adult Choir will sing.

November 13: *On Coming Home*

The Reverend Andy Burnette

Our Adult Choir and Children's Choir will sing and the Worship Band will play. **Potluck after service.**

November 20: *Gratitude: A Balm for the Caring Soul*

The Reverend Andy Burnette

The Adult Choir will sing.

November 27: *Humility: Gratitude's Closest Companion*

The Reverend Andy Burnette

The Bell Choir will play.

10/30 YRUU Scary Movie Night	11/12 Annual Volunteer Day of Service
11/03 Prison Reform – VUU-VIP	11/13 Homecoming Potluck
11/05 MUUGS Skateland Outing	11/17 N.S.G. Book Club
YRUU Sleepover	11/20 Recognition Sunday
11/06 FUUNd Together Donation Requests	Newsletter Deadline
YRUU mUUVie Nite	11/22 Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
weeUUs First Playdate	11/25 VUU Singles Dinner
Congregational Conversation	11/27 Great Books Discussion Group
11/07 Adult RE Free Ideas	Holiday Orchestra Rehearsal
11/11 MUUGS Mini Conference	
VUU Singles Slumber Party	
Sundays – Dalai Lama & Friends	
Wednesdays – Adult Choir, Children's Choir & Bell Choir Rehearsals	

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Friends of VUU,

Our nation is at the precipice of a change in leadership—a change that could be pivotal to our future society. I hope you are less anxious than I am! As we march toward Election Day, I must admit that I am using all the tools I have learned at VUU to cope with uncertainty. I’m pausing to breathe a lot. I’m meditating. I’m singing (praying). And I’m attending services.

My friendships at VUU have been so critical during this campaign season, a true comfort and safe haven in a very conflicted world. I have heard the same sentiment from members of the Spirit of Life Reading Circle. This group--facilitated expertly by Mary Rothschild, Rebecca Riggs and Anne Schneider--meets one evening a month for deep discussions on brief theological articles. Every session includes laughing, crying and great debates! But more importantly, we check on each other and offer encouragement. And lately we’ve had to give each other extra support because of national politics.

Regardless of the outcome of this election, our nation will require a lot of healing. It will require leaders at every level to forge a new understanding for progress. VUU will be such a leader in our community. We are more needed than ever to bring peace, understanding, justice and hope.

Thank you for your involvement, energy, and financial support. Your contributions are critical and urgently needed to sustain the talent and momentum for progress.

Huge thanks also go to Reverend Earl Holt for serving as our sabbatical Senior Minister— “the temp”, as he calls himself. His sermons make us chuckle and then think for days! We are also grateful to the volunteer Worship Associates—and to Kellie, Marci and Sue for their leadership in Andy’s absence.

Let’s all gather in November to welcome Reverend Doctor Andy and everyone else home! We have a Congregational Conversation after service on November 6th. Volunteer Day is November 12th. Andy returns to the pulpit on November 13th. See you soon!

Yours in covenant,

Janice Miller

President

VUU Board of Trustees

LOVE IS OUR DOCTRINE

.....SERVICE IS OUR PRAYER

.....JUSTICE IS OUR CALLING

Religious Education November 2016

Why is it important to attend RE regularly?

It's not just because the more of us who gather on Sundays to learn, grow, and recharge for the week, the more good we can do in the world, and it's not because we are immensely grateful for the gift of getting to know your children and youth, though both of those are true. Here are a few other reasons why coming 3 or more Sundays per month is important:

- ⊕ Our children swim in a culture where a good number of their peers and classmates have a church or other religious home and talk about it. Regularly attending Valley UU, our children know that they, too, have a spiritual home which reflects the values of their families.
- ⊕ We want to offer a cohesive, supportive, nurturing group of young people who see each other for who they are, know each other's stories, and care deeply about each other. This is only possible when they can get past awkwardness and pleasantries and really get to know one another.
- ⊕ We all need tending of our spirits. Taking one morning a week to check in with our ourselves, reflect, recharge, and recommit to our values within this nurturing community is important self-care for adults as well as children.
- ⊕ When you establish a pattern of going to church more often than not going to church, you are laying a foundation for the day when your child has a question bigger than you feel comfortable answering alone, when your family has a challenge that you need spiritual help meeting, or when a local, national, or world event occurs that shakes all of us, and we need grace in community to help us find peace and understanding.

In short, we want to cheer them when they have accomplishments, and offer compassion when they have disappointments. We want to know their individual experiences of being awake and alive in the world, and we want to share the tools of Unitarian Universalism that help us to be awake and alive with faith and love and hope. We can only do this if we exchange gifts—you offer your family time, and as a community we give back to one another the gift of faith that we co-create together.

Please come as often as you are able, three Sundays a month if you can manage it. We need your truth and your time to build a faith that matters and makes the world a better place, an endeavor that is far, far bigger than any one of us alone.

These statements, with a few edits to reflect our circumstances here at Valley UU, come from a colleague at a UU congregation in Pennsylvania, shared with her permission.

Marcé Beaudoin, Director, Lifespan Religious Education



Kick-off of Social groups for children and youth

YRUU –Young Religious Unitarian Universalists- For youth in 9th – 12th grades (or equivalent)

- 🕒 **Sunday, Oct 30** – Scary movie night 5 pm – 9 pm (& a nice chick flick in the next room for those of us who can't handle scary movies!)
- 🕒 **Saturday, Nov 5** - sleep over and room decorating. Over - night chaperones needed!!
- 🕒 **Sunday, Nov 6** – mUUVie club, 5 pm – 9 pm

MUUGs – Middle school Unitarian Universalist Group – For families with youth in 6th – 8th grades (or equivalent)

- 🕒 **Saturday, Nov 5** - Skateland outing
- 🕒 **Friday, Nov 11** – Saturday, Nov 12 - AZ MUUGs mini-convention – registration required, see Marci or Dave

weeUUs – For the small amongst us! Playdates for families with toddlers – 5th graders.

- 🕒 **Sunday, Nov 6** – Our first playdate, we can let the kids play on the playground and the grown-ups can get to know each other. Bring a picnic lunch for your family – you can put lunches in the fridge in room 1.

NEW ADULT RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION PROGRAMMING

Free Ideas (Mind in the Heart of the Matter)

Come digest some **Free Ideas** with us, exploring Mind as it presents itself all the way down into the very Heart of the Matter. With this Mind/Matter interface as a focus, we'll continue our discussion series which began as Spirituality and the Quantum Leap, with no prior attendance require. We will meet at 7 pm, on the first Monday of every month from November through May, in VUU education complex room 5.

Drawing on great thinkers and contributing our own thoughts, we'll discuss and discover our own personal and shared metaphysics. We'll also see how a renaissance of Panpsychist perspectives occurring in scientific circles can bridge the seeming gap with spirituality, and has the potential to improve people's lives.

Oh, and there will be snacks. Food for thought, and for ... eating.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION PROGRAMMING

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

The N.S.G. Book Club is open to all members, visitors, and friends of VUU who enjoy reading and discussing a variety of books. We meet once a month at the home of Johnnie Godfrey in Tempe (near Baseline Rd. and the 101). The next meeting will be on November 17 at 7:15 p.m. The book We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves by Karen Joy Fowler. This novel is the story of Rosemary who was raised with Fern, a chimpanzee, as a sister. If you are interested in discussing this book, please join us.

On December 15, we will have our annual holiday party and select books for 2017.

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

Great Books Discussion Group

The Great Books Discussion Group will continue our series of readings on Parent and Child this month. We will meet at 7pm on Sunday November 27 to discuss *The Continuing Silence of a Poet* by A.B. Yehoshua. Please contact Kevin Erdmann at kebko@yahoo.com if you have any questions about the group.

The Dalai Lama and Friends Workshop

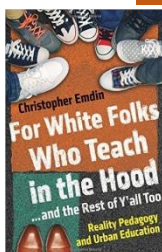


An opportunity to learn from the Dalai Lama and other Tibetan and modern Buddhist teachers is offered each Sunday from 9-10AM in the RE complex, room 5. There is a reading or recorded audio or video teaching, then group discussion. Everyone is welcome! Various topics are discussed, such as 'how to be more compassionate' or 'dealing with anger' or 'how to meditate'.

If you come early there is also meditation from 8:30-9. Done at 10 - plenty of time to get to the VUU service! ...questions? Just email DavidBlackDLF@gmail.com

Child care is available at 8:30 am in the room next door, #6

PROGRAMS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN 2017



Book Talk for Educators

"For White Folks Who Teach in the Hood...and the Rest of Y'all Too" by Dr. Christopher Emdin

Quote: "... what ultimately matters most are the immeasurable lessons and the enduring relationships teachers cultivate with students." David Bosso, Teacher of the Year, 2012?

This is a conversation about how to make that happen.

Facilitators: Beverly McCormick and Stephanie Sapakie

When: January 12, 19, 26, 2017

Time: 6:30-8:30 PM

Location: VUU education complex, rooms 1 & 2



Coming of Age (COA) – 6 month long program for youth in 9th & 10th grades (dates and fees tentative at this time)

- ➡ Mandatory parent AND youth orientation – Sunday, January 22nd
- ➡ Mentors and participants meet at a kick-off picnic on February 5th.
- ➡ Opening retreat at VUU Feb 10th – 11th.
- ➡ February 19 through April 30: weekly Sunday workshops from 12:30 to 3 pm (some dates excluded)
- ➡ Coming of Age banquet and congregational ceremony will be May 6th and 7th respectively.

Coming of Age uses principles of Unitarian Universalism to highlight the transition from childhood to the teenage years and emerging adulthood. The program takes advantage of the diversity of Unitarian Universalist ideas and principles to give a foundation for a lifelong search for truth and meaning, and a commitment to service, justice, peace and environmental stewardship.

Each youth will be paired with a mentor from the congregation. Mentors meet independently with participants at least monthly for activities of their choosing.

Program cost - \$200 per youth (scholarship applications available)

Program finale – Heritage trip to Boston – Tentative dates: June 1 – 6, 2017 (Cost and itinerary to be discussed at orientation.)



MUSIC NOTES



Denominational Work: This month I have had the opportunity to work with the Quimper Fellowship in Port Townsend, Washington and to provide music for the Liberal Religious Educators Association annual conference in San Diego. Mary Tucker, one of our former members here, is now a member at the Port Townsend congregation and is on the Music Committee there. As part of their long-term planning process, they invited me to come do a Music Ministry visioning process with them, work with their choir, and preach a sermon on “Singing Our Living Tradition.” A warm and welcoming group, I had a wonderful time working with them, especially on developing congregational singing and teaching them lots of music that I call circular music: short, repetitive songs and chants, phrases and choruses that help open the heart, similar to what we often do in our meditation/prayer time at VUU.

As I write this I am finishing up my work at the LREDA Conference. They have had a full three days of dealing with the tough topics of money, death, sex, and race. I led their Opening Ceremony on the first night, leading them through a number of powerful songs to help them feel strength and joy in coming together, and to feel nurtured and held through the gift of song. These songs include many that we do at VUU: Healing Rain, Sanctuary, Meditation on Breathing, I'm Gonna Lift My Sister Up, Hush, We Give Thanks, and Spirit of Life, as well as a few new ones. It has been great to meet many wonderful new people, mostly religious educators from UU congregations around the country, and to also take part in some of the personal and professional growth work they were doing on these challenging topics.

As always, though, I look forward to returning home and my work with all of you. I am grateful to be working with a congregation that already knows the power of lifting up the group voice in song, and has developed their own “living tradition” of shared songs.

Our annual **HOLIDAY ORCHESTRA** will be forming again to play for the Holiday Pageant which is the Sunday service on December 11th. If you have played an orchestra or band instrument for at least a year, you are invited to join this fun, inter-generational group. Rehearsals are tentatively set for Sunday Nov. 27 and December 4th after the worship service. So mark your calendars now, and please contact me if you are interested. Retired band teacher and VUU member Karen Mundy will be directing. You are invited to attend an annual **Interfaith Thanksgiving Service** on Tuesday November 22nd at 7 PM. Look for more details later in November in the weekly bulletin available at VUU on Sunday mornings.

-Rev. Kellie (music@vuu.org)

Homecoming Potluck! Please plan to bring a potluck dish to share for our annual picnic to celebrate our community, the return of many of our winter residents, and this year to welcome Rev. Andy Burnette back from his sabbatical. This is also a good time to invite friends, neighbors, or members we haven't seen in a while to join us for worship and a shared meal -**Sunday November 13.**

VUU's **Young Adult Group** meets for lunch together every 2nd Sunday after the worship service. In November they plan to attend VUU's Homecoming Potluck and sit together, with a member of the state-wide UU Social Justice organization, UUJZZ joining them to talk about social justice opportunities after the meal. Look for a sign at a table that day if you are in your 20s-30's.

VUU COMMUNITY/Events

2017 FUUND Together Auction

Are we having **FUUND** yet? You bet!! VUU members and friends have been getting together all year to enjoy the fabulous dinners, pool parties, movie nights, hikes, bird watching, pumpkin carving, jewelry making, card playing, museum tours, watching the debate (!) and many other special events purchased at last spring's 2016 Let's Have **FUUND** Together auction.



Debate Party FUUND!!!!!!

FUUND Together is VUU's largest annual fundraiser. The auction gives each of us the chance to support VUU's mission and programs by donating an event and/or purchasing ticket(s) to **FUUND** event(s).

Believe it or not, it's already time start thinking about 2017. Beginning Sunday, November 6th, the **FUUND** Team will be asking for donations for the 2017 auction. Please come and visit with us on the patio after Sunday services. We'll have pictures of some of the **FUUND** that's gone on over so far, and we'll be happy to talk to you about how you can participate in 2017.

P.S. Looking for a way to get involved at VUU? Join our **FUUND** Team!! Please email Debbe fuundtogether@vuu.org. We would love to have your help!

*from the
Administrator*

Hey folks, we know MANY of you are getting rid of your home phones and use your cell phones as your primary phone number these days soooo if you have any changes...new phone numbers, old number dropped, new emails, etc. please send this info to the VUU Office (office@vuu.org) so that we can keep our info up to date. We don't want you missing a single awesome thing that's coming up here at VUU...by the way did you know Rev. Andy comes back next week!!! :-) - Sue Ringler, Administrator

Treasurer's Pleas (and thank you's!)

On behalf of the board, the finance committee, and all the amazing programs at VUU, it is with some urgency that I report a \$34,000 revenue shortfall for the last few months. This year our pledge year changed (from fiscal to calendar), our fiscal year stayed the same (July-June), we had a sabbatical minister on the payroll for four months, we lost a few air conditioning units that needed emergency replacement, and our Senior Minister was out of the pulpit for those same months.

If you are a contributor who makes regular operating donations on your pledge - thank you! If you were waiting for the end of the year, and planning to get those donations in by the tax deadline, or finish paying on your pledge then, thank you also! If you could make those payments now instead of waiting until December, that would really help us to get caught up.

To the extent that you can, weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly payments can seriously smooth out our cash flow. VUU has financial commitments every week of the year, and sometimes the slow down in the summer - and especially this summer, what with extra expenses - means we can't keep those commitments as timely as we would like.

To help make it easier, you can now make payments online, including directly from your bank account, your credit or your debit card. You can also set up recurring payments from this link, found at the top of the VUU website, labeled "GIVE." These donations are immediately credited to you through our Breeze software, and make it easy to keep great records.

<https://vuu.breezechms.com/give/online>

As always, if you have questions about your pledge or payment status, you can contact VUU at office@vuu.org.

DeeAnne McClenahan, Treasurer, VUU

Did You Know...that you can donate to VUU through our website?



VUU.org, click on *GIVE* on the top of the home page and the donation is automatically recorded in your VUU Giving Record! Or just go directly to: <https://vuu.breezechms.com/give/online> We have also just added a way for you to TEXT a gift to VUU from your phone! This also is directly recorded in your VUU Giving Record! Check it out – TEXT your donation to (480) 725-4522. You only need to input your information once and then you are set to go anytime you are inspired to give! Hey, don't have cash for the plate Sunday morning? TEXT your gift! Thank You!

YOU are invited by the Board of Trustees to attend a **Congregational Conversation** after Sunday service on **Nov. 6 from 12:00 to 12:45**. We will have extra food to keep you nourished while we discuss:

- What's New at VUU?
- How did people respond to the annual survey?
- What is our financial status?
- How will we fund the vision?
- Any questions or feedback?

Message from Stewardship

Hello Friends,

This time of year Stewardship begins to prepare for our kickoff event for the fundraising season, our Annual Volunteer Day of Service. This year the event will take place Saturday, November 12th. There will be opportunities to support Save the Family by making birthday bags and cards for less fortunate children and holiday cards too. You can sign up to help prepare the garden for planting so we can donate fresh vegetables and produce to Paz de Cristo. There will be chances to help with some light maintenance of our church facility as well. Sign up for these and other events outside the sanctuary starting October 23rd. Last year we had a 30% participation rate and it would be great to have more families and friends participate. (t-shirts will be given to all participants).

The Sunday after the Volunteer Day is our traditional Homecoming Service and potluck. This will also mark the beginning of the annual canvas/pledge drive where we ask members and friends to pledge or donate for 2017. The theme continues to be 2020 Vision. Our Board of Directors has taken all the data from many small group meetings and developed "end statements" reflecting the collective outcomes our members wished to see. Next our Administrative Team will develop the plan for how we get there. Your donation for 2017 will help to support our programs for achieving the 2020 Vision as well as helping our budget committee plan for the next fiscal year.

I am excited because this year we will move more towards a paperless giving drive. You will not only be able to use the VUU.ORG web site to donate, but you will be able to put in your information so your donation can be sent to VUU from your bank at whatever frequency you choose. This is also part of an initiative to capture information about when to expect donations so our finance committee can have a better understanding of monthly cash flow.

As you think about your financial contribution to V.U.U. I ask you to take some time and reflect on your involvement over the years, or in the past year for newer members and friends. What has V.U.U. meant to you, and what is V.U.U. doing to impact our immediate and broader community? I personally donate not only for what I get from V.U.U., but also to support our Religious Education, Social Action, Interfaith Ministry, and other programs that make a difference here in Arizona, and in the world.

With Love and Hope,

Carl Anderson
Stewardship Chair
C 480-529-4365
giving@vuu.org



VUU SOCIAL ACTION MINISTRY

Promoting Social, Economic and Environmental Justice

Prison Reform – Civic Academy, Nov. 3

VUU, in partnership with VIP, will be hosting a *Civic Academy* on Prison Reform in Arizona on Thursday, November 3 at 6:30 in our sanctuary. This is an educational session meant to inform Arizonians of the problems within our prison system, both nationwide and locally. Please come and bring a friend to this very important discussion. For more information, see John Wurm, jothwu@gmail.com or Carter/Bev Rogers carterandbev@yahoo.com

Paz de Cristo – November Donations of the Month – Stuffing & Cranberries

Please support our focus charity, Paz de Cristo, by bringing donations needed to help stock Thanksgiving dinner boxes, including **stuffing and cranberries**.

Drop your donation in the designated boxes in the foyer of the sanctuary. Thank you for your continued support of the “Donation of the Month” program.

I-HELP/Shoebox Ministry donations

Drop your donation in the designated boxes in the foyer of the sanctuary. Needed items include: **deodorant, shampoo & conditioner, razors & shaving cream, toothpaste, toothbrush & Ziploc bags**. Thank you for your contributions.

Green Sanctuary Garden News

Our first harvest this year will be radishes. They grow quickly! Kids love to pick them. If you would like to help, please send an email to Karen Stucke, karenstucke@yahoo.com. The date is not selected yet.

The garden volunteers could use more shade to escape the hot sun on our work days. Do you have a patio table with an umbrella, or an umbrella with a stand to donate? The umbrella should be in working condition so that it can be closed when not in use. Small garden trowels are also needed. The donations made from the VUU members over the last year have been a great help to us this year. Thank you!

Paz de Cristo – Serving Meals to People in Need

Fridays for November 11th and December 9th still have lots of openings for volunteers to help prepare and serve dinner to 150+ guests at VUU’s focus charity, Paz de Cristo Community Outreach in Mesa. To volunteer, please add your name to the list on the clipboard at the back of the VUU sanctuary, or contact Pat Flahart, Andrew Herrmann or Rebekah Thomas at pazdecristo@vuu.org. Families are welcome – kids must be at least 12 years old.

Mark Your Calendars - Justice District Assembly (DA) March 31 – April 2nd 2017

Justice DA 2017 will be immigration themed, and will begin in Tucson AZ with the keynote address Friday evening. Instead of workshops, delegates and attendees can sign up for a variety of Immersion Experiences near or across the border in Mexico. The business meeting will be after dinner Saturday and will be coordinated from several locations. DA will end Sunday morning with a worship service at the border. As you can see, this is not your Grandfather’s DA! Questions: contact David Sheh, sdavid471@cox.net. More information is available at <http://justiceda2017.weebly.com>

Thank you for Supporting the VUU Social Action Ministry

If you have ideas, comments or questions about these or other Social Action projects, please contact Willa Cree, socialaction@vuu.org.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER IS NOVEMBER 20.

Recognition Sunday: A VUU Tradition

Each fall the Special Funds committee recognizes one longtime member of our congregation who has clearly served this community above and beyond. This year's Recognition Sunday will be November 20th. Please mark the date, as we celebrate the service and contributions of Anne Schneider! Please consider making a contribution to the VUU Endowment Fund in honor of Anne. Donations of \$50.00 to \$100.00 are common, and often we receive larger contributions, but of course any donation is welcome and greatly appreciated.

This Recognition Sunday tradition dates to 1995 and the initial creation of the VUU Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund exists to help sustain VUU over the generations, generations which we will be celebrating on November 20th. The Endowment Fund is made of generous contributions from VUU members who donate to the fund through donations and bequests. And each year for Recognition Sunday, we invite additional contributions in honor of one special long-time member and their service to our congregation and community. The complete list of past honorees is found below. Our goal in the coming year is to help educate the congregation about how our endowment fund works and how we can continue to grow it to better fund goals that are important to all of us.

One way we do this is to administer "The Bunny Clarke Leadership Fund". Interest and dividends from this fund are used to help defray costs of leadership development. Also, the Special Funds committee has voted to approve grants from The Endowment Fund. As requested by the Board, The Endowment Fund has helped to finance various one-time special projects, such as physical improvements in the sanctuary and RE buildings.

Please speak to any of the Special Fund Committee Members if you have any questions. They are: Carl Anderson, Joel Sannes, Jay Miller, Rick Hinrichs and Chris Sar.

The following people have been honored over the years.

Marilou Coy	1995	Larry Visotsky	2000	Todd Heglund	2005	Jim Nielsen	2010
Bunny Clarke	1996	Bob Clarke	2001	Charlotte Ward	2006	Loyd Means	2011
Jan Christian	1997	JoAnne Smith	2002	Neria Ryder	2007	Barb Quijada	2012
Roger Smith	1998	Roger Axford	2003	Betty Nering	2008	Debbe Simpkins	2013
Bill Wood	1999	Debbie Dinyes	2004	Lauree Perry	2009	All the children Of VUU	2014

Read More About Anne:

Anne grew up on a wheat farm in Ellis county, Oklahoma along with her older brother Tim and younger sister, Linda, the fortunate children of loving parents, Bert and Margaret Larason. After graduating from Fargo High School, Anne attended Oklahoma State University and later Indiana University earning the bachelors, master's, and Ph.D. in political science.

Anne has had a life-long interest in helping build a society that is fair, compassionate, and inclusive. She considers it her good fortune to be living in a time and place that she could participate in most of the great social movements of the 20th century: civil rights, the anti-Vietnam movement, women's rights, environmental movement, gay rights, and more recently, the rights of immigrants and prisoners. And while acknowledging that none of these efforts is over, but she hopes to have at least contributed. To paraphrase an old saying "She did what she could, with what she had, from where she was."

Her core beliefs revolve around three things:

- fairness—which is what she thinks is a universal human aspiration;
- empathy – perhaps the most undervalued of all human traits and the one that inspires us to work for justice, and
- happiness – which is what gives her energy and enthusiasm

continued

In terms of her professional life, she's held academic positions at Yale University, Oklahoma State University, and Arizona State University. Anne served as Dean of the College of Public Programs at Arizona State University from 1989 to 2004 and then continued at ASU until 2010 with faculty appointments in the School of Justice Studies and the Department of Political Science.

Now retired, her projects have changed. She especially appreciates her work at VUU as a member of the Board, the Financial Analyst, a worship associate, member of the choir, and lots of social justice activities. In retirement she has been able to do something she always wanted, which is to track legislation and she does that now, publishing the Arizona Legislative Alert once a week or so to help people stay informed about what our legislature is doing.

Anne's hobbies have changed over time, but in addition to reading and watching politics, they focus mainly on various kinds of physical activities – beginning with a girls' basketball team and continuing through slow pitch softball, running, backpacking hiking, and now – road trips, walking, writing poems, and taking pictures of beautiful places, some of which are just outside her windows near South Mountain.

There are many things she's proud of: her children, Chris and Geoff, who have grown into really fine people; her family where along with her parents, she and her brother and sister have established scholarships at four different Colleges and Universities in Oklahoma as well as ASU; And, even some of her own work, too.

She is also proud of various awards received – from the first one she can remember which was first place in the county reading contest in the second grade and first place in the county fair cookie contest when she was in the third grade. She was pleased to receive the faculty women's association award at ASU for her work in diversifying the ASU faculty and introducing more courses focused on sensitivity about issues of race, gender, ethnicity, and social class into the curriculum.

Anne has written some books include *Policy Design for Democracy* for which she and long-time co-author Helen Ingram received a lifetime achievement award in 2007 from the American Political Science Association. She also wrote a book on juvenile justice (*Deterrence and Juvenile Crime: results from a national policy experiment*) and more recently, she and Helen co-edited a book, *Deserving and Entitled: Social Constructions and Public Policy* (SUNY Press).

She has two books of self-published poetry, *Desert Poems* and *Reflections*.

But with all these accomplishments, she has expressed genuine humility in being honored this Recognition Sunday by her friends at VUU. "No award is more meaningful to me than this one here. VUU became my home, my extended family, and the reason I have retired here in Phoenix. You are at the heart of my life, now, and there is no way I can ever thank you enough."

Thank you, Anne, for your many years of service to VUU and our community, to your profession and your family. We are honored to be able to recognize you and all you've accomplished, so far. We're looking forward to still more of your poetry, politics and poise!

Sincerely,

The Special Funds Committee, on behalf of the congregation at Valley Unitarian Universalist.



VUU SINGLES UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, November 11, 6:30 pm It's PJ's at MJ's Slumber Party!

(47 94 E. Bellerive Dr., Chandler—Riggs and Val Vista) Starting with a light dinner, then games, prizes and fabulous conversation. Next morning, after coffee and OJ, out for breakfast! If you cannot stay the night, come for dinner games and fun! **Call MJ at [480-489-4120](tel:480-489-4120)** with your RSVP.

Friday, November 25th (Thanksgiving weekend), 6:30 pm,

Singles dinner night out! Perfect Pear Bistro 9845 S. Priest Dr. Tempe (on Priest just north of Ray). A quiet dinner with your VUU Singles family for those not out of town or with relatives. Come ye thankful people, come! Reply all to RSVP or call or text Claudette at [973-768-6047](tel:973-768-6047).

Saturday, December 3rd, at 5:30 pm, a night at the Herberger Theater (ATC).

We'll see AN ACT OF GOD described as a sinfully hilarious and critically acclaimed new play. God and his devoted angels answer some of the deepest questions that have plagued mankind since Creation and offer up a new set of 10 commandments. We'll be meeting up at the Starbucks on Elliott and Priest to carpool to a restaurant near the Herberger. Contact Claudette and claim your \$45 ticket (special discount and \$20 for students?). [973-768-6047](tel:973-768-6047).

Saturday, December 17th, at 6:30 pm, Singles VUU Holiday Potluck Party at Renee's — 4761 E. Pawnee Circle, Phoenix (Ahwatukee) **Bring** a dish to share and a gift for a Yankee Swap (Value approximately \$15) This will replace our monthly dinner out. RSVP to Renee at [602-471-0362](tel:602-471-0362) by text or phone call.

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 November 2016 are:

10 to 19 years:

Jayne Burgess

Gilda Czerwonka:

Barbara Face

John & Gaylee Fretz

Megan Kimball & Chris Sar

Alan & Karen McGarrity

Molly McNamara

Lisa Shane

Nancy Stillings

Patrick Whorton

Eloise Zachery

20 to 29 Years:

Johnnie May

30 to 39 Years:

Marge Brodrick & Courtney Phillips

DiAnna Farmer

40 to 49 Years:

Deborah Dinyes

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

WAYFARERS HAPPY HOUUR HOLIDAY HIATUUS

Because of various conflicts on my part and the busy holiday season coming up, Happy HoUUr will be on hold in November and December. If you have questions, call me at 608-201-2207 or email: watersjj9790@gmail.com. Have a happy holiday season. Jan Waters.



Third International Women's Convocation
Asilomar Conference Grounds, Monterey Peninsula, CA, USA
February 16-19, 2017

Take advantage of Presidents' Day weekend to engage with U*U women from around the world at the **Third International Women's Convocation, Asilomar Conference Center, CA, February 16-19, 2017**. Connect, share, grow, celebrate, and empower in the unspoiled surroundings of this tranquil retreat. Registration is \$350. Bring one, two (or ten!) friends from your church and you qualify for a group discount of \$50 off each! An additional \$50 discount is available for UU ministers. Young adults aged 18-40 can register at a special all-inclusive package rate. If you are interested in offering a workshop, please fill out our workshop request form online. Visit IntlWomensConvo.org for all details.

Pacific South West District (PSWD) Happenings

The PSWD is the intermediate governance body between VUU and the denomination, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). From time to time I will report to the congregation on events as I see them.

Mark Your Calendars - Justice District Assembly (DA) March 31 – April 2nd 2017

Note: there is detailed information on Justice DA as well as educational materials. Please take a moment to check this out:

<http://justiceda2017.weebly.com/>

Justice DA 2017 will be immigration themed, and will begin in Tucson AZ with the keynote address Friday evening. Instead of workshops, delegates and attendees can sign up for around 30 Immersion Experiences near or across the border in Mexico. The business meeting will be after dinner Saturday and will be coordinated from several locations. DA will end Sunday morning with a worship service at the border. As you can see, this is not your Grandfather's DA! Questions: contact David Sheh, sdavid471@cox.net

October PSWD Board meeting Highlights:

1. We received a report from the Youth Board from the Youth member of the PSWD. These were mostly issues around accessibility of DA for Youth and an opportunity for the two Boards to meet together. We agreed to this and set up a joint meeting in January
2. There was much discussion around coordinating Justice DA next year. This is a collaborative effort between the PSWD, UU Justice Arizona (UUJAZ), Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA), and the UU Ministers Association (UUMA).
3. Chalice Lighters: many good changes are coming to this program. Chalice lighter programs in all 4 districts of the PWR are getting common administrative support and there will be 12 regular calls (3 per district) per year. This is an excellent and easy way to strengthen our community. If you want to know more read up at [chalice-lighters](http://chalice-lighters.org).

For those of you who got the PSWD newsletters, they will be no more since the person who created them, Rev. Ken Brown, has retired from ministry. The new method of getting district and regional news is the Pacific Western Region (PWR) newsletter. If anyone is interested in this you can sign up here: [Subscribe to the PWR newsletter](#).

David Sheh, PSWD Secretary

CARING AND CONCERNS NEIGHBORHOOD CONTACTS

With the holidays approaching, our lives will get busier and busier. Family and friends can often fall by the wayside at this time. By making a real effort to stay connected, our community will remain a source of support and stress-reduction for our members. If you need assistance with a situation or want to share a joy, call your Neighborhood Contact. We're here and ready to help.

Your Neighborhood Contacts are:

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

Carl Anderson	480-899-4453	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
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Mesa West - Zips: 85201, 85202, 85210

Mary Jo Bitner	480-831-5518	
Debbe Simpkins	480-831-2915	friendsofdebbe@gmail.com

Mesa East, including Apache Junction:

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

Betty Barnes	480-962-1526	bettyjbarnes@cox.net
Joel Sannes	480-464-6772	joelsannes@gmail.com
Diana Woods	480-835-5621	dianawoods@hotmail.com

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

Amy & Michael Morrison	602-881-3724	amy_cccslp@yahoo.com
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Chandler

North - Zips: 85224, 85226

South, including Sun Lakes, Queen Creek, Casa Grande

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

Barbara Face	480-961-3223	barbara_face@qwest.net
Stacey Laughrey	480-399-4450	staceylrn@gmail.com
Jacqui Meriweather	480-491-0546	jacquelinea.meriweather@gmail.com
Jane Murray		ellen.bayer47@gmail.com

***We need more Neighborhood Contacts to fully cover all areas. If you would like to help strengthen the bonds of community in our congregation, please contact Lauree Perry.

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



VUUPOINT is published monthly by the Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation. VUUPOINT is distributed free of charge to members and friends of VUU. The newsletter can also be viewed online at the VUU website www.vuu.org. 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

Reverend Andy Burnette, Senior Minister
Reverend Kellie Walker, Minister of Music
Marci Beaudoin, Director of Lifespan Religious Education
Sue Ringler, Congregation Administrator
Joe Martin, Maintenance Technician
Michael Lewis and Jill Khaleghi, pianists

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Janice Miller, President
Paul Schneider, Vice President
Jess Nierad, Secretary
DeeAnne McClenahan, Financial Analyst/Treasurer
Cliff Allred, Board Rep. to Finance Committee
Barbara Face
Musette Steger