

VUUPOINT

June 2017



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.

Prophetic Imperative

June 4 *Every Person a Prophet: Our Shared Sacred Calling*

The Reverend Doctor Andy Burnette

The sopranos and altos from the choir, along with soloists Jill Khaleghi and Beth Wyman, will be singing a beautiful 4-movement piece, Messe Basse, for our extended meditation time this day.

June 11 *Impolite Society: The Message of the Hebrew Prophets*

The Reverend Doctor Andy Burnette

The VUU Worship Band will play, with Ross Lewicki on piano.

June 18 *Prophets of Love: The Radical Message of Universalist in Early America and Today*

The Reverend Doctor Andy Burnette

June 25 TBA

Jill Khaleghi on piano.

Events at a Glance

6/03 Singles Pool Party
 6/04 **ANNUAL MEETING**
 Craft Sale
 6/11 Young Adults Lunch
 6/15 N.S.G. Book Club
 6/18 Newsletter Deadline
 6/20 General Assembly Begins
 6/21 Writing Your Legislator Workshop
 6/23 Singles Monthly Dinner
 6/24 "We the People Summit"
 6/25 VUU Women's Group
 6/29 Kellie's Recognition – Live Streamed

Sundays – Dalai Lama & Friends

We are prophetic interrogators. Why are so many people hungry? Why are so many people and families in our shelters? Why do we have one of six of our children poor, and one of three of these are children of color? 'Why?' is the prophetic question. - Jim Wallis

Several of you have asked to read my doctoral dissertation on Unitarian Universalism and social class. [Here is a link. https://psr.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Andy-Burnette.pdf](https://psr.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Andy-Burnette.pdf) Thanks for all you do to make VUU the wonderful faith community it is!

Love, Rev. Andy

“A Moment with the Minister”



Our theme this month is the prophetic imperative. Basically, that means we have a duty to speak out against injustice. Most of us learn this in our elementary school years. Maybe some of us heard it from a clergy person or read it in a holy text. But for me at least, comic books taught it best. Peter Parker was a humble guy, but he realized that being able to climb walls and shoot webs obligated him to fight evil. “With great power,” Spiderman postulated, “comes great responsibility.”

Like every good comic book superhero, you and I live in days dominated by shady rich guys hoarding money at the expense of the poor. Our democracy is in peril. We might wish for a bite from a radioactive spider that would give us the power to bring down the bad guys. Instead, we have voices, resources, and the power of people gathered around a cause. And in all times, but certainly in trying times like these, we have an obligation to use those powers to promote justice.

I am usually disheartened when I turn on the news. The attack on our shared public life is discouraging. Public schools are being defunded, the power of the vote is being stolen from hundreds of thousands of people, and bills that are not only against the public interest but are obviously unpopular are being forced through Congress. It would be easy to come to the conclusion that there’s nothing we can do.

But the only thing we can do is do something, however small, to fight back the forces of evil. Let your representatives know what you’re thinking. Support an institution like a newspaper, a religious organization, or a school. Volunteer. Learn about voting in your district by contacting the folks at the county recorder’s office, and ask them how you can help get people registered. You have the power, and the responsibility, to participate in the resistance.

As we become more involved in saving our democracy, I think we will learn a lesson that another superhero taught us. Forgive me another comic book reference, but it’s ComiCon weekend as I write this, and I can’t help myself. Luke Cage is a character who became nearly invincible as part of an involuntary prison experiment. Once he escaped prison, where he was being held unjustly, he reluctantly decided to use his powers for good. But some power-drunk politicians framed him for a murder, and he went on the lam.

In one scene in Netflix’s rendition of the Luke Cage story, Luke was chased down and cornered by a police officer carrying a gun loaded with the only kind of bullet that could kill Cage. But the officer lowered the gun and said to Luke, “You don’t know how many people are rooting for you. Now get out of here and catch the guy who really did this.” Luke escaped unharmed, and the tide slowly began to turn in his favor.

Friends, there are so many superheroes out there. There are so many people who want to preserve our democracy. More than we know right now. The resistance movement is large and growing. We who believe, as our fifth principle states, in democracy both in our congregations and in society at large, have an imperative to put that principle into action. So get out there, superhero, and use your powers for good.

With love,
Rev. Andy

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

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Members and Friends,

Please join us for the Annual Meeting on June 4th, following the Sunday service. We need a quorum of members! We will be approving the budget for the fiscal year beginning this July. We will also be voting for a competitive slate of candidates to lead the Board of Trustees, the Special Funds Committee, and the Leadership Development Committee. (Kudos to the LDC for recruiting such amazing talent!)

On a personal note, I'm completing my third and final year as Board President. It's been a rewarding and humbling experience, and a privilege to be in service with these dedicated board members: Paul Schneider (Vice President), DeeAnne McClenahan (Financial Analyst/Treasurer), Jessica Nierad (Secretary), Barbara Face, Cliff Allred, and Musette Steger. They have been collaborative partners and valuable leaders.

The current year has been challenging at VUU--we have really had some highs and lows. For the board, our best highlight was the completion of the VUU Vision, following a year-long process that involved dozens of group discussions within the congregation. The result of that work is a guiding document which will inspire and focus the energy of our ministers, staff and volunteers for years to come.

As you know, our greatest challenge this year was the resignation and subsequent reinstatement of our senior minister. At the board level, we were engaged in crisis management—first at the prospect of losing our beloved Reverend Doctor Andy Burnette to the UUA, and then at the work of initiating searches for an interim and permanent minister, and then at the racial controversy emanating from the UUA regarding Andy's appointment. In the end, our strong relationship with Andy made a difference: he committed another 3+ years to VUU. (Joy!) But the trauma of this crisis will require much time to heal for Andy and the congregation.

Our other tough challenge this year was financial. Our revenue forecast was too optimistic—partly because of incorrect pledge assumptions and partly because we did not anticipate the adverse impact of Andy's sabbatical absence on giving levels. Fortunately, we implemented several corrective actions mid-year that allowed us to stabilize financial performance and end the year well. We learned from the experience and have made changes that will enable greater financial success in the future. These include changes to stewardship structure, volunteer staffing, data, collections and communication—plus improved financial reserves, sabbatical policy, mortgage terms and Special Funds loan provisions.

We are ending the year feeling optimistic about the future, and for very good reasons:

- ✓ We have retained our ministers and key staff members.
- ✓ We are adding many new congregation members, increasing our diversity.
- ✓ Members reported high levels of satisfaction on the annual survey.
- ✓ Our operating budget is balanced for this year and next.
- ✓ We have a significant and growing endowment fund.
- ✓ We have increased community outreach through social justice, denominational and interfaith programs.
- ✓ We have a growing number of engaged volunteers.
- ✓ We formed a new group—the East VUUs to encourage growth and community development in Mesa and Apache Junction.

These strengths will carry us toward our vision, feed our spirits, and benefit the larger community.

As I reflect on the last few years, the greatest satisfaction comes from a sense that we have evolved culturally as a full-fledged program congregation. We have moved to the next stage of governance, a lay-ministerial partnership that reflects our great trust in the ministers and staff to manage operations. We are more open to innovation and more impactful as partners for social justice in the larger community. The future seems bright indeed...

Faithfully yours,

Janice Miller President, VUU Board of Trustees

Religious Education June 2017

Summer programming at Valley Unitarian Universalist congregation

4 yr olds ~ 2nd graders: **Rainbow Principles with Leo Lionni**

Children start in the sanctuary every Sunday. Lessons take children through the 7 UU principles using the rainbow colors AND animal representations. Each lesson has a Leo Lionni story and activities or crafts.

2nd graders ~ 5th graders: **Values through Game Playing**

Children start in the sanctuary every Sunday. Lessons explore UU values through a variety of games. The games provide a springboard for discussion and exploration of key values.

6th ~ 12th graders: **Let the Force Be With You**

Youth start in their classroom, room 5, every Sunday. The lessons bring spiritual/ethical lessons from Star Wars into a cohesive program. The focus is on the colors of the lightsabers and the UU Principles. Dressing in Jedi costumes (long tunics belted over pants) is an added plus!

Nursery is open 8:30 am ~ 12:30 pm for our youngest friends. Recommended for children 3 yrs. old and younger.

Marci Beaudoin, Dir. Lifespan Religious Education

ONGOING ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFERINGS

The Dalai Lama and Friends Workshop



An opportunity to learn from the Dalai Lama and other Tibetan and modern Buddhist teachers is offered each Sunday from 9-10AM 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

Great Books discussion group

The VUU Great Books Reading and Discussion Group will take a break in June.

We will return in July to read *Billiards at Half Past Nine* by Heinrich Boll. This is our last reading in the Parent and Child collection. It is a short novel that isn't included in our book of collected readings, so readers will need to buy or borrow a copy. After July, we will move on to our collection of readings on Politics, Leadership, and Justice.

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 June 15 at 7:15 p.m. The book is *Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania* by Erik Larson. Full of glamour and suspense, it brings to life a cast of evocative characters. As U-20 and the *Lusitania* made their way toward Liverpool, an array of forces both grand and achingly small—hubris, a chance fog, a closely guarded secret, and more—all converged to produce one of the great disasters of history.

For the meeting address or questions, please contact Johnnie at 480-839-0544, Amy at 480-917-1922, or email: agmonahan@gmail.com. Meeting time is 7:15 p.m. All are welcome.

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 June 2017 are:

20 to 29 Years:
Carl & Sue Anderson
Lloyd Harrell
Barbara Sorauf

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

“You change society by changing the wind. Change the wind, transform the debate, recast the discussion, alter the context in which political discussions are being made, and you will change the outcomes... You will be surprised at how fast the politicians adjust to the change in the wind.”

— *Jim Wallis*

MUSIC & MORE

The **CHOIRS** are all winding down for the summer. The last Adult Choir performance will be on Sunday, June 4th. They will start rehearsing again on Wednesday, August 23rd at 7:30 PM in the sanctuary. The Chalice Ringers will also start up that day, at 6 PM. The Chalice Singers, VUU's Children's Choir, are on a longer break until Wednesday, Sept. 27th. Voices Lifted Singers, our women's ensemble that sings in community settings such as nursing homes and at bedside for those recovery from illness, surgery, or in hospice care, won't rehearse again until late August. Please email me at music@vuu.org if you are interested in joining any of these groups in the fall.

Our annual **FALL CABARET** has been scheduled for Saturday evening, October 7th at 7 PM in the VUU Sanctuary. This fun, social event is an evening variety show for all ages and the theme this year is on **TRIBUTES**. It will feature music (and no doubt some trivia) from performers who have died too young, but whose wonderful songs live on. Please contact Ken St. John ken_stjohn@yahoo.com if you are interested in performing or helping in other ways (think publicity, ticket sales, help with food or décor). This is always a fantastic event, so mark your calendar now and buy your tickets on-line in September!

WORSHIP DESIGN RETREAT: Worship Associate and VUU member Barbara Metz and I attended a week-long retreat in early May at Lake Tahoe. Not only were we in a beautiful and spiritual natural setting, we attended wonderful sessions about how to plan and work more collaboratively to design worship that is meaningful, memorable, and moves people through all their senses. I worked with Marcia last summer to design the worship series at the annual UU Musicians Network Conference, and am heading up the Worship Design Team for the same conference this summer. I will be in Arlington, Virginia from July 24-31 making this happen at the UU Church of Arlington.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY (GA): From June 20-26 I will be in New Orleans to attend this large, annual gathering of UUs from around the continent and even the world. I will be giving a workshop with two of my colleagues on "Comfort Choirs," which includes the kind of work that we do with our Voices Lifted Singers. I will also be recognized in the evening Service of the Living Tradition on Thursday June 29. I believe this service and other events and will be live-streamed, so google "UU General Assembly 2017" for those details.

MEMBERSHIP: The next Journey to Membership session is scheduled for Sunday, August 20th from noon to 3:30 in the Religious Education complex. If you have been coming for a while and are interested in finding out about membership at VUU, Unitarian Universalism, and meeting other newcomers, this is a good class to take. Look for sign-ups starting in late July.

YOUNG ADULTS: They next meet to go out for lunch together on Sunday, June 11th after the service. Please contact me if you are interested in getting on the Facebook page for this group.

-Rev. Kellie (music@vuu.org)



VUU COMMUNITY

ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 4th!

Notice to all Members:

Sunday, June 4 will be the VUU Annual Meeting and there will be much to discuss. As always there will be a budget to approve and candidates to elect. The Leadership Development Committee (LDC) has been at work developing slates of candidates for all elected committees. Please see short Bios for the candidates below. This is an important time in our congregation; do not miss this chance to choose our leadership:

- NOTE: All members are strongly encouraged to attend the meeting. However, if unavoidable circumstances prevent your attendance, you may pick up a ballot at the VUU Office. Mail-in ballots must arrive at VUU by 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 1st.



Board (4 open positions):

Maria Dixon:

I joined the Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation (VUU) in January 2016. I moved to the Arizona from the District of Columbia metro area in 2012. I don't have a hometown. I was born in Puerto Rico, graduated high school in Panama and lived in several US states in between. I have lived and traveled in Central and South America because of my father's diplomatic career.

I am a Clinical Professor in Speech-Language Pathology at Arizona State University. I graduated with a B.A. in Economics from the University of Illinois, and worked as a statistician with the U.S. Census Bureau. I then graduated from the University of Maryland with an M.A. in Speech-Language Pathology after discovering that my passion was for people and not solely data.

I value service and I volunteer when I can. I gravitate toward service focused on youth, particularly for children with disabilities or challenging life circumstances. I have been a mentor for Free Arts of Arizona which provides visual arts activities for abused and homeless children. I am a board member for AZ ASSIST, which serves teens and young adults on the autism spectrum.

I am a fiber enthusiast - I knit, crochet, weave and spin yarn from wool and silk. My family in Arizona includes a dog, Twix, and a cat, Topaz. My parents and sister live in Springfield, Missouri and my brother, sister-in-law and three nephews live in Guam.

I have become increasingly more involved at VUU and hope to do more. I started by helping with our beloved snack service after service, serving on the FUUNd committee and helping the Coming of Age youth with fundraising for their Heritage Trip to Boston. I attended the Leadership Development Training earlier this year.

VUU has become an important part of my life and I am looking to be more involved. I have found a community that has grounded me and I feel I have found a "hometown" after all these years.



Mary Erickson:

As I grow older, I increasingly realize how growing up on a farm formed many of my core values. Similarly, being the beneficiary of the efforts of dedicated public school teachers gave me a foundation that continues to serve me today. I still occasionally ask myself a question posed by a committee member at my PhD defense: "What's a farm girl doing here anyway?" In the first year of my three-year phased retirement, in my fiftieth year of teaching, I'm beginning to think I may never be "found out."

I research how various age groups, from diverse cultures, with differing art experiences create meaning in art. Insights into both how people create meaning through making art and also how they create meaning by constructing their own understanding of artworks are the twin foundations for my efforts to teach art teachers.

Family ties and professional challenges have taken me to fascinating places where I've made lifelong friends as well as colleagues. A lung problem makes flying difficult for me now, which motivates me to keep feeding my life-long love of road trips, avoiding interstate highways in search of old US highways and, around Arizona, gravel trails with the occasional creek to ford. Such travel affords me great opportunities to indulge my photography, sketching, and watercolor interests.

I left the Methodist church at the age of 17 as soon as I could manage, and remained "unchurched" for 39 years. In 2001 I discovered VUU and cannot imagine being without this new "family." My VUU experience began as a search for personal healing and fulfillment. Only in recent years have I gradually come to understand and prize the service component of our covenant. If elected, I will bring whatever life experience and professional expertise I have to the deliberations of the board.



Bob Fabre:

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

While in Ohio, he was a long-time worship associate, and chair of the local UU Christian Fellowship.

Bob retired and moved back to Arizona in 2013, and joined our church in 2014 (his mother, Nell Fabre, was a long-time member of the church). Since returning, he has concentrated on being a worship associate, but now wants to return to church governance, where his extensive experience and expertise will be a valuable asset to our congregation. His background in two previous UU churches has included long-range planning, as well as three instances involving changes in ministerial leadership, all of which provides him with the relevant makeup to tackle what is now happening with VUU. He is interested in church growth in all of its aspects (i.e., membership, financial, and spiritual/worship/religious education opportunity).

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



Karl Hurst-Wicker:

Growing up in Ohio, my grandparents always instilled in us the importance of being involved and giving back to our community. It was stressed to us that through involvement we could both return the good will and kindness imparted upon us and participate in the continuous improvement and growth of our community. Throughout my life this call to service has been consistent, be it volunteering at Ohio soup kitchens as a high schooler, leading my high school Service Board, chairing the Campus Safety Committee at college, mentoring junior medical students at Columbia, or volunteering my time with a

non-profit cancer community in Salt Lake City. Wherever I have lived, I have sought the be an active community participant to help improve my community for everyone in it.

After moving to Arizona in 2013, our family sought a spiritual community that we could call “home”. We were fortunate enough to find VUU and be welcomed into its accepting and supportive congregation. As a member, I am thankful for the self-reflection and growth I have experienced through the weekly sermons and my interactions with my fellow members across the generations. Indeed, through volunteering with the Religious Education program I’ve had the opportunity to interact with our youth in a fun way that educates about the principles of Unitarian Universalism and social justice and allows us adults to reflect upon those teachings. Having joined this community and feeling as if it is my home, I would like to continue to give back to it and improve it.

That is why I would like to join the board. Going forward I would like to help with the planning for the future of our congregation and how we can continue to improve our spiritual home, both in the immediate and distant future. As our congregation grows I have no doubt that we will continue to meet the spiritual needs of our members and the social justice needs of our community. It is my hope that as a board member I can participate in helping to develop a strategic plan that both facilitates & encourages our growth, while also strengthening our level of engagement & commitment to each other. As such, I respectfully request your support.



DeeAnne McClenahan (incumbent):

I am a life-long Unitarian-Universalist, and have been a member of UU churches in five states, served on the board in two and served as President of the Unitarian Universalist church in Roswell, Georgia before moving to Arizona; for the last twelve years I have been a proud member of Valley UU Congregation, serving on Stewardship, Green Sanctuary, Finance, Budget, Special Funds, and the Audit Committee. I have taught RE and participated in fundraisers such as the auction and cafes, helped to organize the library and to create VUU’s first photographic membership directory, and to begin the

chalice circles covenant groups. I raised two young adults from middle school at VUU and am grateful to this congregation that their UU roots and values serve them well as adults.

By day I am the Director of Budgeting for the largest multi-family manager/developer in the US, and have spent most of my career in professional finance roles. My other role in the community is as board member (President this year) of the Tempe Union High School governing board.



Barbara Metz:

I joined VUU in 2000; in 2004 moved out of state and joined All Souls UU in New London CT where I remained until moving back to AZ and rejoining VUU.

Professionally I have been a cellist and critical care nurse.

It was while I was in the CT UU congregation that I really found myself in leadership roles and discovered my involvement in these roles not only rewarding for the results of my participation, but also helpful in my own development.

I have been active in music programs in both congregations playing cello for special music and singing in the choirs.

In CT, I helped develop a training program for new chalice group (small group ministry) facilitators and served as a facilitator myself.

The last 2 years in CT, I was part of the worship team (similar to our worship associate team) and found in that role a sense of home and a place for my own growth as well as looking at what was working in worship and what could improve upon.

Since returning to VUU, I have been part of the worship associate team and am chairing the newly formed visual arts team.

Near the end of my late husband's life, I decided I would not stay in Gold Canyon; it was too far from everything that mattered to me. In selecting a new location, on the top of the list was being close to VUU. This is my community.

All that being said, VUU is one of the most important parts of my life, and therefore, I want to see it continue to grow and develop in healthy ways, and I wish to be a part of that. I work well with others, can think outside and inside the box, and have both the time and commitment to feel I could serve as a strong board member.

Thank you for considering me.



Claudette Wassil:

I have been a Unitarian Universalist for 45 years and in that time I have been in congregations that range in size from 40 members to 300. I also studied to be a minister at Thomas Starr King School for the Ministry, the UU Seminary in **Berkeley California**. I have served as a Board President, RE Director and Minister Intern, so I bring a lot of depth as a UU to the task. In addition, I have served on a Search Committee in the past. I am representative of congregants relatively new to VUU and am in touch with the needs of VUU singles which I estimate to be about 25% of the congregation. At the same time, I have no particular agenda, but simply want to help take us to the next step in our growth journey. I am ready to make the time and energy commitment needed for a member of the Board and would embrace it as a labor of love.

LDC (3 open positions):**David Sheh (incumbent):**

I have been a Unitarian for 18 years and a member of VUU for 16 of those. The day job is Software engineering. I have served as Personnel chair, Head Usher and a total of 7 years on the Board, 3 as president, 1 as secretary and 1 in an advisory role. I have served on a half dozen Stewardship drives, several years on Green Sanctuary and enjoy all the VUU activities I can attend. I am currently Secretary for the Pacific Southwest Region (PSWD) Board.

I have served for 2 years on the LDC and am standing for a second 2-year term. I feel fortunate to be part of this committee in the Leadership Development era, and enjoy performing the annual seminars and supporting all the leadership of our congregation, not just recruiting for open positions. If re-elected I will continue to do what I can to forward the VUU mission by supporting the leaders of the congregation.

**Barbara Sorauf (incumbent):**

I have been a member of VUU for twenty two years. During that time I have participated in many areas including Choir, Bell Choir, RE, Membership Committee, Board and Leadership Development Committee (LDC).

The LDC does important work for VUU and I have been pleased to be a part of it these last two years. I look forward to serving for two more years.

**Ken St. John:**

Ken has been a member since 1998, and an active participant at VUU since 1997. During that time he has served on the board, the nominating committee, the RE committee, the finance committee and the Ministerial Search Committee that brought us the Rev. Dr. Andy. He has also taught nearly every level of our religious education program, including the teen's YRUU social groups. Ken is currently active as a choir member, an OWL facilitator, I-HELP volunteer, the Cabaret organizer, and as the usher coordinator for worship services. For a fun time, he has been sneaking onto the campus during weekdays to do garden chores, and to ensure that the sanctuary chairs are reasonably positioned for each Sunday

Service. He and his wife Janet met at VUU; their blended family includes 5 awesome children, 4 adorable granddaughters and a pretty cute dog. Ken recently rescinded his offer to serve on the ministerial transition team, which frees up plenty of time to work on the Leadership Council. Plus he's retired now, giving him an infinite amount of free time available.

Special Funds (2 open positions):**Cynthia Riley**

I joined VUU in January of 2000. My primary interest is social justice issues, particularly in the current political environment. This past year I have begun getting involved with the Valley Interfaith Project (VIP) and am currently working with other interested members on making VUU more aware of VIP and getting our congregation more active in their activities.

I earned a master's degree in accounting from A.S.U. and worked in public accounting for a couple of years before beginning a 27 year career in banking. I have worked for Valley National Bank, Bank

One, and JPMorgan Chase here in Arizona as a result of various mergers, although I never actually left the corporation. I was initially hired as a tax accountant for the Trust Tax department and spent four years in that position before transferring to Internal Audit and spending ten years there. Subsequently I worked 13 years as a trust officer, the last ten years as an estate settlement officer prior to my retirement.

**Joel Sannes (incumbent):**

Joel Sannes has been active at V.U.U. in a few different ways. He is currently on the Special Funds Committee, and is running for that office again. He has been on the Finance Team and the Board and served a year as Board President. He also teaches the youth in the Our Whole Lives and Coming of Age programs. He and his family (Wife, Melisa, and children Celine, Ely and Fallon) have been active at V.U.U. since 1999. All three of their children are part of V.U.U. and as a member of Special Funds, he will work to preserve and build the endowment so that in the future others will have the same welcoming religious home Joel and his family have had at V.U.U.

Professionally, Joel is an attorney at the Mesa law office Udall Shumway.

**Chris Sar (incumbent):**

Chris has been an active member of VUU since he and his family joined the congregation in 2006. In addition to being elected to the Special Funds committee three and six years ago, he has served for several years in fundraising roles on the Stewardship, auction and annual canvas committees. He has taught RE, and joined the Our Whole Lives committee, and completed training as an OWL instructor for grades K-1 and 3-4. Professionally, Chris is the director of planned giving at Phoenix Children's Hospital Foundation, where he has worked raising funds for the past seven years. He also serves on his Rotary Club foundation board.

He would be honored to serve another term on the Special Funds committee, if elected by the congregation.

VUU SOCIAL ACTION MINISTRY

Promoting Social, Economic and Environmental Justice

“We the People Summit” – Saturday, June 24, 2017- Phoenix Convention Center.

VUU is a sponsor of the “We the People Summit” being held at the Phoenix Convention Center. This summit is designed to provide education and resources to each unique call to action. It strives to make progressive change in Arizona by listening to the voices of our citizens and activating them through collaborative efforts and targeted workshops.

For more information or to register, go to www.pafcoalition.org.

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

We need some friendly people willing to spend the evening eating food and getting to know our homeless and interfaith neighbors. VUU I-HELP program houses up to 25 of our homeless Chandler neighbors most Monday evenings and we are looking for anyone willing to help coordinate serving our evening meal.

The role is simple. Help volunteers find any items they may need to serve the evening meal, enjoy an evening meal with our guests, and assist volunteers in clean up. Coordinators generally arrive about 5:30 and are done by eight (unless a particularly interesting conversation with our guests keeps you there later). Volunteer once a month, once every month or when you can.

Please contact vuuihelp@vuu.org or see Cathy Miller for more information

Paz de Cristo Needs YOU!

Are you a UU looking for another way to help others who are less fortunate? Are your students in need of community service volunteer hours AND something to do this summer? Make a commitment to help feed the hungry at Paz de Cristo on a second Friday in June, July, August or September. Each month, VUU needs 20 volunteers to satisfy our long running commitment to this wonderful charity.

Many of our regular volunteers are away during summer months so this is the perfect time to bring the family (age 12 and over) and make a difference in the lives of others. [Please check here for availability and sign up](#) – we’d love to serve with you! Note: Kindly check with, and advocate for your schools' NHS and NJHS advisers to allow summer time volunteer hours to be applicable towards an upcoming school year. Send questions to pazdecristo@vuu.org

I-HELP/Shoebox Ministry donations - Men’s and Women’s Socks

Drop your donation in the designated boxes in the foyer of the sanctuary. Needed items include:

- **Lotions**
- **Razors**
- **Combs**

Paz June Donation of the Month: Canned Soup and Chili

Please support our focus charity, Paz de Cristo, by bringing in a donation of canned soup (any type) or chili during the month of June. For the sake of convenience, please try to donate cans with pull-top lids.

Drop your donation in the designated basket in the foyer of the sanctuary.

We are continuing to accept gas and grocery gift cards, which can be placed in the lock box on the foyer wall. Paz especially appreciates gift cards from Fry’s because they can be used for both gas and groceries. Your support is greatly appreciated.

[City of Tempe Opportunity – Let your Voice Be Heard: Writing Your Legislators.](#)

A free workshop discussing how to best engage your legislator is being offered June 21 at the Tempe Public Library from 6:00-7:30. Admission is free and registration is not required. For more information, go to www.tempe.gov/brochure.

[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

PSWD – UUA Notes

This has been a very active year in the Pacific Southwest District (PSWD). We held a successful Justice District Assembly which was attended by over 200 adults and provided over 20 different offerings around immigration justice. The worship at the border was intense and particularly moving. Next year all the districts will be meeting in Portland for the second Pacific Western Region (PWR) regional assembly. It will be held at the Double Tree Hotel April 27-29, 2018, so save the date!

This year the PSWD Board awarded a GW White scholarship, recommended 3 chalice lighter calls, planned and pulled off the most ambitious DA in many years, met and coordinated with the PSWD Youth Board and the Camp DeBenneville Pines Board. Our relationship with regional staff continues to evolve, while the regional staff met regularly with us this year, we have been told to expect less staff time next year.

The PSWD is running a small deficit for the first 3 quarters of this fiscal year. While district expenses are in line fair share contributions are running behind schedule.

Please note: you do not need to travel to New Orleans to vote for our next UUA President. After you register you can vote online anytime in June until June 24th at 5pm central time. General Assembly (GA) is in New Orleans this year June 21-25th. However, you can attend remotely via your computer and you will also get a lower registration fee.

And if you are interested in getting your feet wet with district affairs, there is an open position right here at VUU for Chalice Lighter Ambassador. This position promotes Chalice Lighters at VUU and encourages maximum participation in a program where 50+ VUU congregations help one another. If you are interested a job description is available. Any questions please contact me, David Sheh, at sdavid471@cox.net.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

One way to support Refugees in our midst:



A delicious way to support Refugees

Through the Syrian Sweets Exchange bake sales around the valley in the past few months, a few talented bakers have taken serious interest in establishing their home business. The bakers are refugees from Syria who have been recently resettled in Phoenix. Give our bakers a chance to introduce their business to the community by ordering baklavas from us for your parties, meetings and events. 100% of the proceeds go to families of the bakers.



Traditional Baklava
Walnut
Full Tray - 54 pieces
\$45*



Finger Baklava
Walnut
Full Tray - 75 pieces
\$45*



Assorted Baklava
Walnut, Pistachio
Full Tray - 60 pieces
\$50

**Add \$10 for pistachio*

To order:

- Email order@SyrianSweetsAZ.com or call 858-610-2751
- Order must be placed at least 3 days before delivery.
- Pick up from baker or flat delivery fee of \$10

www.SyrianSweetsAZ.com

Another way to support Refugees in our midst:

Sunday, June 4th, Craft Sale after the service in the sanctuary



Ramia Miro has two teenagers. Her daughter who has a rare neurological disease attends special ed classes. Her husband hours at the Holiday Inn were cut in half during the summer. The family is from Damascus, Syria. Her husband lost brothers and sisters during the war in Syria. Ramia's family fled Syria for concentration camps in northern Jordan. Conditions were horrible with unsafe water, where people frequently got sick and were hungry because of lack of food. Son had to work and didn't attend school for five years.

Ruba Raslan is a mother of four young children from Homs, Syria. Due to bullets, bombing and lack of food, they fled Syria and went to camps in Almafryk, Jordan for five difficult years. The family has been in Mesa for 9 months. Recently her husband stopped working because of health issues. Your purchase of craft items will help pay for the rent and put food on the table.

Please bring cash to pay for items ranging from \$5 to \$100. Checks are also welcome. Crocheted items include baby sweaters, booties, caps, women's dress hats, scarfs, mats and customized goods. Aprons, pot holders, tote bags and placemats are sewed. Please contact marciaheller@gmail.com for questions.

Wayfarers

Happy HoUUr will be on hiatus until September.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR JULY is JUNE 18

VUU Singles

Friday, June 23, 6:30 pm, Singles Monthly Dinner - Mambo's Dominican Restaurant, 1950 N Arizona Ave, Chandler (SW Corner of Warner and Arizona). Mambo's has a 4.7 out of 5-star rating. We'll continue our foreign food adventures with a new taste palate. Come join us and share good conversation with friends. RSVP to Claudette by call or text 973-768-6047

VUU Women's Group

In the past, the Women's Group took a break during the summer. This summer we have decided to continue meeting on the fourth Sunday of each month. The next meeting will be June 25 in rooms 1 & 2 at approximately 12:00 after service and coffee hour. All women are welcome. Watch the weekly e-mails and bulletins for further information. Contact person: Johnnie Godfrey, johnniegirl85218@gmail.com or 480-839-0544.

CARING AND CONCERNS NEIGHBORHOOD CONTACTS

Summer vacation time is here, and people head off for cooler climates. If something comes up that you need assistance with during this slower time of year, please call on your Neighborhood Contact. We're ready to help, be it with a ride, food, or just a caring note.

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.

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
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Mesa West - Zips: 85201, 85202, 85210

Mary Jo Bitner	480-831-5518	bitnermj@cs.com
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

Betty Barnes	480-962-1526	bettyjbarnes@cox.net
Joel Sannes	480-464-6772	joelsannes@gmail.com
Rebekah Thomas	443-890-4120	rkendri@hotmail.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@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 Dr. Andy Burnette, Senior Minister
 Reverend Kellie Walker Hart, Minister of Music
 Marci Beaudoin, Director of Lifespan Religious Education
 Sue Ringler, Congregation Administrator
 Joe Martin, Maintenance Technician
 Jill Khaleghi, pianist

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