

VUUPOINT

September 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.

Living in Beauty

- September 3** *Opening our Hearts through Beauty* **Led by Barbara Metz**
- September 10** *Beyond Necessities: The Need for Public Beauty* **The Reverend Doctor Andy Burnette**
- September 17** *How Could Anyone Ever Tell You? The Beauty in Diversity*
The Reverend Doctor Andy Burnette
- September 24** *Beauty in the Contrast: The Importance of Repentance*
The Reverend Doctor Andy Burnette

Events at a Glance

- | | |
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| 9/03 RE Water Fun Day
The Board Room | 9/20 Chalice Singers Rehearsals begin |
| 9/10 RE Fall Classes begin
JASS Meets | 9/21 Spirit of Life Reading Circle
N.S.G. Book Club |
| 9/12 VUUJAAZ Planning Meeting
Voter Registration Training | 9/22 VUU Singles Monthly Dinner |
| 9/14 EastVUU's Meeting | 9/24 VUU Women's Group Meeting
Register Our Neighbors
Great Books Discussion Group |
| 9/15 Wayfarer's Happy HoUUr | 9/26 National Voter Registration Day |
| 9/17 Newsletter Deadline | |

Sundays – Dalai Lama & Friends
Wednesdays – Adult Choir & Bell Choir Rehearsals



"We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty."
Maya Angelou

Butterfly, photo by Tom Stovall, August 7, 2014. (CC BY 2.0), <https://www.flickr.com/photos/dogardens/16637934479>

“A Moment with the Minister”



I was standing in line at the grocery store a few days ago when I started hearing these electronic chirps. Ding... Ding... Ding... Ding... A few seconds between, then another and another. Finally, I realized the dings were coming from the rear end of the person ahead of me. He had his phone in his back pocket, and someone or something was flailing for his attention.

Maybe this guy in front of me at Fry’s was the president of some country or a really bad secret agent, but the truth is most of us aren’t important enough to receive that many notifications. Still, like trained seals clapping for fish, we usually grab our phones whenever they promise a reward.

Our smartphones aren’t the only things that have us in their service. The banners on TV News channels shout that there’s BREAKING NEWS, even if that same news has been breaking for three days now. Companies tell us we’ll never be good or thin or smart enough unless we consume their products. Everything seems so urgent. There’s constant chatter jangling our brains.

Now, I’m no Luddite. I love a good gadget. In fact, I think all this technology creates greater equality, including easier access to information. But our theme this month is Living in Beauty, and the constant electronic calls for our attention are a major contemporary obstacle to that goal. We will have to make room if we are going to experience the beauty around us.

There is a balance to be struck, of course. We can’t just unplug completely, shut off the news forever and pretend all is well. Unitarian Universalism calls us to be informed and working for justice. But if we choose to, in our relationship with media messages we can become the trainer instead of the seal.

The first step is awareness of the effects your electronic consumption is having on you. Are you being dinged and pinged too often? It might be worth changing the settings on your phone to ensure you are only notified when you want to be. Are you feeling frustrated when you scroll through Facebook or Twitter or Instagram? If so, is that frustration productive or destructive? If it is destructive, can you limit your social media time? The same questions might help with any media that has you feeling at loose ends. Stepping away for a while, shutting off all those little annoying notifications on our phones, will help us make space to experience beauty.

When we have room for it, we are sure to find the beauty we’re looking for. People are still mostly good, and it’s amazing how often folks can be observed helping one another. Some museum is always offering free admissions to see art. You don’t just deserve to experience all the beauty around you. You need it, and it will refuel you for the justice work ahead.

So don’t be a grocery store butt-dinger. Take charge of the media you’re using and create more space for renewal. Beauty awaits you!

With love,
Rev. Andy

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

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Dear friends of VUU,

Last week the board of trustees decided to move our monthly meeting to give members a chance to attend the protest rally during the president's visit. Although not all trustees were able to attend, it gave everyone space to observe in their own way.

At the event, it was very encouraging to see the large group of folks representing our VUU community. The bright yellow Standing on the Side of Love shirts made it easy to find folks and seeing everyone there gave me a sense of pride in being a part of VUU and what we stand for. It was also very powerful to be a part of thousands of people that were carrying signs with words like hope, love, acceptance, and equality. Almost every one of our UU principles were on display in those signs:

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

The VUU board will resume its work next week during the rescheduled meeting.

Warm regards,
Paul Schneider
President
VUU Board of Trustees



“The rose has no why...”
Angelus Silesius

Rose, photo by Ryan Fung, January 12, 2015, (CC BY-SA 2.0), https://www.flickr.com/photos/ryan_fung/2264696773

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN OUR SUNDAY MORNING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSROOMS



Meet Fionna. Fionna is one of the imaginary friends representing more than 20 world religions who are scheduled to visit the 2nd and 3rd grade RE class this year. The friends will share about their belief systems, rituals, games, and crafts.

Unfortunately, we are short on volunteers to run our programs:

-  Preschool - Need 4 teachers, 12 Sundays.
-  2nd/3rd grade - Need 3 assistants to lead teacher Teri
-  4th/5th grade - Need 4 assistants to lead teacher Sharon
-  HS - Need 4 assistants to lead teacher Rebecca

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A “TEACHER” AND AN “ASSISTANT”?

Valley UU is fortunate enough to have 4 paid, and one volunteer, lead teacher. These teachers are in the classroom every Sunday. They are prepared to lead the lesson and get to know our children/youth very well. 1 assistant per Sunday joins the lead teacher to help with the class activities.

The preschool class is led by 6 volunteer teachers who share in the responsibility of reviewing and leading the lesson and helping the children become comfortable in the class. In order to staff the room with 2 volunteers, each teacher needs to sign up for 12 Sundays during our program year.

Volunteer requirements: attend Valley UU for 6 months and complete an application which includes permission to run a criminal background check. [Note: being a parent of a child in the class is NOT a requirement!]

Please email me at re@vuu.org if you are willing to help, classes begin September 10th.

Marci Beaudoin, DLRE



**Teachers
& Assistants
Needed**

Religious Education September 2017



Join us to celebrate the end of a fun summer!
Sunday, September 3rd 10:30 am – 11:45 am

We will have a water slide, watery games & toys and snacks!

Be sure your child wears a swimsuit and t-shirt (or clothes they can get wet in), a hat, a towel, and plenty of sunscreen!!

Sign in sheets will be just inside the gate in the Education complex (we will NOT be starting in the sanctuary)



Fall start up: Sunday morning Religious Education classes – Sept 10th

Sept 10, 2017 – May 20, 2018: Sunday morning Religious Education classes, age groups: Preschool, Kindergarten & 1st Grade, 2nd & 3rd Grades, 4th & 5th Grades, Middle School, and High School

RE classes will not be held on the following dates, nursery is open every Sunday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm:

- September 3: All age **Water Fun Day**, children start in education complex, skip the sanctuary, nursery open
- October 22: **HOME COMING**: Multi-generational worship service, potluck lunch to follow. No RE classes, nursery open
- December 3, 10, 17: Pageant rehearsal, children start in education complex, skip the sanctuary, nursery open
- December 24: **Pageant Worship Service** – Multi-generational, no RE classes, nursery open
- December 25: Merry Christmas - campus closed
- December 31: All Age Game Day, rooms 1 & 2, nursery open
- January 1: Happy New Year - campus closed
- March 25: **Palm Sunday** - Multi-generational worship service, no RE classes, nursery open
- April 1: **Easter Party** in RE complex. Children start in classes, skip the sanctuary, then proceed to egg hunt and party in courtyard, nursery open
- May 13: Youth service - Graduating high school seniors will bridge to young adults
- May 27: All Age Game Day, rooms 1 & 2, nursery open

Online registration is available, use this link:

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/ValleyUnitarianUniversalistCongregation1/201718SundayMorningReligiousEducationClassesRegistration>

Marci Beaudoin, Dir. Lifespan Religious Education

RE-STARTING ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFERINGS

Spirit of Life Reading Circle

Spirit of Life Reading Circle meets once a month to discuss theological issues of interest to Unitarian Universalists. We send out links to the articles for the month, which everyone reads before the meeting and they form the basis for our discussion, after we have a short check-in to see how everyone is doing. Despite the old saw that you should never publicly discuss religion or politics, this is a place that exists for us to discuss religious issues that illuminate our principles and our lives.

Our schedule for this year is: September 21; October 26; November 30: No December meeting; January 25; February 22; March 22; April 26 and May 24.

Resources for September: · HELD OVER BY POPULAR DEMAND *Is Your God Dead* <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/19/opinion/is-your-god-dead.html>

· A Psychological Trick for Political Persuasion <https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2017/02/the-simple-psychological-trick-to-political-persuasion/515181/>

· Andy's sermon: *Universalists: Prophets of Love Yesterday and Today* © Rev. Dr. Andy Burnette June, 2017 You can listen to Rev. Andy's sermon at <http://www.vuu.org/sermons> (scroll down to June 7).

Email maryloganrothschild@gmail.com to get on our mailing list. Our group is open and welcoming and we'd love to see you join us!

Mary Rothschild, Rebecca Riggs and Anne Schneider.

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

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 September 21 at 7:15 p.m. The book is *An Uncomplicated Life* by Paul Daugherty. This non-fiction book is a father's exhilarating and funny love letter to his daughter with Down Syndrome whose vibrant and infectious approach to life has something to teach all of us about how we can better live our own. If you are interested in discussing this book, please join us.

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 VUU Great Books Reading and Discussion Group will continue our Politics, Leadership, and Justice series in September. We will discuss "Sorrow-Acre" by Isak Dinesen.

We will meet in Classroom 5, Sunday, September 24, from 7-9pm.

All are welcome. Please contact Kevin Erdmann at kebko@yahoo.com with any questions.

"It is time for parents to teach young people early on that in diversity there is beauty and there is strength." Maya Angelou

MUSIC & MORE

Lingering thoughts from **General Assembly**: I am still mulling over the excellent sermon given by the Rev. Cheryl Walker at the Service of Living Tradition at the annual continental gathering of Unitarian Universalists (GA) in New Orleans this past June. Sometimes the best way to evaluate whether a program or event did the job it set out to do is to see what one remembers some months later, and if one is incorporating new learnings. The main thing I'm still thinking about from GA is the part of her sermon where she said change just to make a change doesn't mean much. But change that makes a positive impact is important. And a good thing to ask oneself when contemplating something new is to ask, "Am I doing this for my own ego or to try to have a positive impact? **Impact** is what is important and I am trying to remember that as I plan programs and music for this new church year.

Another thing Rev. Walker said was that human beings haven't evolved emotionally, spiritually, or mentally to be able to handle social media very well. Wow, has that become obvious recently in our world! In my work at VUU over the years I have learned that the best way to deal with conflict is to try to talk directly to the person involved, rather than go to others, and to always assume best intentions. I am grateful to VUU leaders and congregants who have been reminding us of a better way through the "Difficult Conversation" meetings. And to those of you who have been showing up publicly at rallies and prayer vigils, and to those of you who have supported in other ways by making signs, providing water, or staying home and taking care of children and the activities of daily life that need attending to. There are many ways to be a blessing to this world and in this particular time, and often these ways are behind-the-scenes. I am grateful to so many of you, and to Cheryl Walker and her healing and wise words at GA. If you are interested in hearing more, go to the link to the service where she spoke:

<http://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2017/worship/slt>

ANNUAL FALL CABARET

October 14th, 7PM in the VUU Sanctuary. This fun evening of music, laughter, dance, and humor has been happening for over 25 years now! The theme this year is Tributes: Wonderful songs from wonderful musicians, gone before their time. For more information or to help, contact producer Ken St. John.

CHOIRS-Newcomers especially welcome now!

Adult Choir rehearsals are Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 PM in the VUU Sanctuary. No auditions necessary, just a love of singing a variety of styles of mostly 4-part music with others. The choir sings about twice a month for Sunday morning worship services, and for a few special events, including our annual Cabaret on October 14th.

The Chalice Ringers, VUU's Bell Choir, rehearses on Wednesdays from 6 to 7:30 PM, also in the VUU Sanctuary. No prior experience necessary, but reading music rhythms is a big plus. Directed by Joan Buddy.

The Chalice Singers, VUU's Children's Choir, waits until Wednesday, September 20th to start rehearsals, and they will meet then from 6:15 to 7 PM in the sanctuary kitchen.

-Rev. Kellie Walker Hart, Minister of Music (music@vuu.org)

VUU COMMUNITY

2017 – 2018 Chalice Circles

VUU's small group ministry program, *Chalice Circles*, will begin in October of 2017 and will run until May 2018. These twice monthly gatherings of no more than 10 people feature deep listening and allow for quiet reflection on vital issues of faith and life. Sessions are guided by trained facilitators, last 90 minutes, and are most often held in members' homes. Meaningful connection with others and grounding in our shared values result from the deep listening and thoughtful sharing.

Each group will decide its own meeting spot. For 2017-2018, meetings will be held on Tuesday evenings at VUU, Wednesday evenings in/near Tempe, and Thursday evenings in/near Mesa. Circles will meet from 7 – 8:30pm.

A "kick-off" event will be held on October 1st from 1-1:30pm. Your facilitator will let you know when the first evening meeting will be on October 1st.

Additionally, each group is asked to put together two service projects, one to benefit the congregation and one to benefit the wider community.

Chalice Circles are facilitated by people involved with VUU. All facilitators receive training on guiding the deep listening circles and their role with small group ministry within VUU. Facilitators also participate in a monthly Facilitator Circle. If you are interested in becoming a facilitator, please email chalicecircles@vuu.org to request an application.

How can I find out more? To sign-up for more information, visit the VUU website or e-mail chalicecircles@vuu.org. If you prefer, you may also call Molly McNamara at 515-450-0843.

Click and sign-up here: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0d49adab22a64-chalice>



2017 – 2018 Chalice Circle Facilitator Opportunity *Chalice Circles* are facilitated by people involved with VUU. All facilitators receive training on guiding the deep listening circles and their role with small group ministry within VUU. Facilitators also participate in a monthly Facilitator Circle. If you have any questions contact Molly McNamara at chalicecircles@vuu.org.



Have you been enjoying the Little Free Library at VUU? Want to help keep it going?

VUU's Little Free Library needs a steward to keep it restocked and in good shape. Minimal time commitment.

Contact Emma Sar for more details. emmasar00@icloud.com

VUU SOCIAL ACTION MINISTRY

Promoting Social, Economic and Environmental Justice

National Voter Registration Day

In advance of National Voter Registration Day on September 26th, we at Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation will be preparing ourselves to build participation in American democracy.

At 7 p.m. September 12th, officials from the Maricopa County Recorder's Office will be at VUU to conduct voter registration training. This training, which is open to the public, will prepare those in attendance to register others to vote.

After our worship service on Sunday, September 24th, those who have been trained will spend about an hour knocking on doors in the neighborhood surrounding VUU registering our neighbors to vote. Lunch will be provided.

If you are interested in attending the training, please RSVP to office@vuu.org.

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? Make a commitment to help feed the hungry at Paz de Cristo on a second Friday in September, October and/or November. 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 and early fall 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! Send questions to pazdecristo@vuu.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 for more information.

Paz de Cristo

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

- **Canned Tuna and Canned Chicken**

Register to Vote:

Most of us are registered to vote. But what happens when you run into someone who isn't? Did you know that you can register to vote online? If you find someone that is not registered send them to <https://vote.gov/register/az/>

Upcoming Events :

October 29: The next session of "Difficult Conversations and How to Have Them" For a revised version of the Ladder of Inference, contact Beverly McCormick, tempebev1@gmail.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

TRULY LIVING AND WALKING IN BEAUTY





VUU Library:

The sale of Anne Schneider’s books of poetry and nature photography was very successful; we made \$140 in two weeks. There are still books for sale in the library. The proceeds will go toward the purchase of new books for VUU’s library.

We need recommendations for books that the congregation would like to see in the library. Please send your suggestions to Johnnie Godfrey at johnniegirl85218 @gmail.com.

A Note from Sue

We are updating the VUU Directory! If you have any updates to your contact info (new email address; you disconnected your home phone; new cell phone #, etc.) please send this info to the office - office@vuu.org. Also, if you don't have a picture in last year's directory - WE WANT YOUR ADORABLE (OR NOT) FACE IN THE NEXT DIRECTORY. So, send a picture also or watch out, we may send our favorite photographer after you to get your picture :-). Questions? contact Sue at office@vuu.org. Thank you.

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 September 2017 are:

10 to 19 Years:

Evan Anderson

Lenore Braun

Joel Carroll

Faye (F E) Farmer

Tracey Greer

Wendy Hayes & Todd Hoffay

Duke Mertz

Dan & Stephanie Sapakie

Ken St. John

Patricia Young

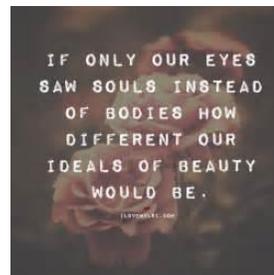
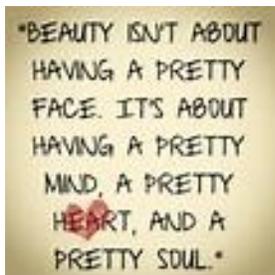
20 to 29 Years:

Randall Casillas

Jill London

Loyd Means

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



EVENTS



First Sunday of each month, (unless there is a congregational meeting that same day) stop by "The Board Room", held in the sanctuary after Sunday service, for an informal chat with members of the VUU Board of Trustees. Your questions and comments are welcome!

JASS

Jam Acoustic Second Sunday (JASS) happens every second Sunday in the Sanctuary from 12:00-1:00 PM.

Following in the VUU tradition, "all instruments are welcome here" (though it is generally an acoustic, non-amplified group).

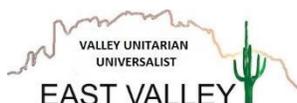
VUUJAAZ — VUU's Justice Advocacy program. VUUJAAZ advocates for more socially just public policy through education, information, public witness, and participation in UU Day at the Legislature. VUUJAAZ projects include the Arizona Legislative Alert, occasional workshops and forums at VUU, issue papers, and liaison to UUJAZ—Arizona's state-wide advocacy network. [Arizona Legislative Alerts](#)

*You are invited to **VUU's Legislative Ministry (VUUJAZ), Planning Meeting Tuesday, Sept. 12 5:30 to 6:45.** ALL are welcome! (In the sanctuary)*

Here's what we'll do at the 5:30 to 6:45 meeting:

1. Calendar social justice VUU events for the year... bring dates for VUU, UUJAZ, VIP, and other social justice activities of interest to us.
2. Think up additional events/ forums, candidate forums, etc. and get a volunteer to lead, and a date/time.
3. Other projects and priorities:
 - a. Ready Response Team (volunteers. Then we'll spread this on to UUJAZ and other volunteers)
 - b. Volunteers to help with VUUs participation in UU Day at the Legislature.
 - c. VIP participation team.... other groups we want to get closer to?
 - d. Other Info/educational/advocacy ideas for us to do.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



EastVUUs EAST VALLEY

Meeting every month on the 2nd Thursday. **Come join us Thursday, Sept 14!**

We are meeting at Apache Wells Home Owners Association Building, 2223 N 56th St, Mesa, 85215 @ 6 pm for potluck and discussions. This is a newly forming group of VUU members living in the East Valley wanting to gather monthly for potluck or dinner out with discussion on timely issues as well formulating and follow-thru on social actions the group will take on. In October, EastVUUs will participate in the UUJAZ "State-wide UU Congregation travel food donation campaign" for immigrants traveling on to family members outside of Arizona. All members and friends of VUU living in the East Valley are invited to attend. Contact Sharon, 1004slk1950@gmail.com or 815-252-2528 for more information and potluck info.

Wayfarers

Our first Happy HoUUr of the season will be on Friday, September 15 at our usual jumping-off place, Pita Jungle in Ahwautukee. The address is 4921 E. Ray Road, the southwest corner of Ray and Interstate 10. We will begin meeting at 4:30 PM. Please let Jan Waters know if you plan to attend, or if you have questions. Call or text at 608-201-2207, or email: watersjj9790@gmail.com. Everyone is welcome.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER IS SEPTEMBER 17

WOMEN'S GROUP MEETING: Sunday, September 24

Would you like to meet more of the women who attend VUU? Would you like to get acquainted and perhaps make new friends?

Come to the next Women's Group meeting, Sunday, September 24th in the sanctuary, near the kitchen. We will start about 12:00, after the coffee hour. All women are welcome.

There will be a simple cold dish potluck. Pair up with someone to bring a dish to share with the group. If we each bring a dish, there will be way too much food. Since I don't like to cook, I encourage you to pick up something already prepared. Please RSVP to Johnnie Godfrey, but please come even if you haven't RSVP'd or haven't brought anything for the potluck. There will be plenty of food, and you will be very welcome.

Johnnie Godfrey, H:480-839-0544, C: 480-231-8381, johnniegirl85218@gmail.com

UUCT Sponsors Tour to Santa Fe and Taos Dec. 8-14

New Mexico, Land of Enchantment! What could be more enchanting than a week in Santa Fe and Taos during the Christmas holiday season where hundreds of luminarias cast a magic glow? Join us for a really Cool Yule Tuur as UUs from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson and friends make the journey to these two cities with exciting stops along the way. See Sandhill cranes at Bosque del Apache and beautiful Native American arts and crafts in the colonial marketplaces of Albuquerque, Taos, and Santa Fe. Explore the history of this amazing region with stops at outstanding museums! Peek into the past and the present Pueblo life with a visit to Taos Pueblo! Enjoy "taking the waters" at the thermal baths in Truth or Consequences, and visit Georgia O'Keeffe's lodgings and studio at Ghost Ranch!

The bus leaves UUCT on Friday, Dec. 8, and returns Thursday, Dec. 14. Sign up now to ensure that you have a ticket to ride! Only \$849 pp for a double room or \$1263 for a private room. If you need a roommate, let us know and we will match you up with another traveler who wants to share a room. We will also find home hospitality for out-of-towners for before and after the trip. There are only 30 spaces available for the Tuur. The complete itinerary and registration forms are online at uuctucson.org and can be mailed with your \$100 deposit to: UUCT, 4831 E. 22nd St., Tucson, AZ 85711, marked Attn: Mary Wiese. If you have questions, contact Julia Mehrer at perujourney@gainbroadband.com or Carolyn Saunders at c_saunders1@msn.com.



Welcome to our new members!



Lisa Bonine



Craig Campbell



Janilyn Harding



Lorrie Patrick



Theresa Juday



Dave Juday



Barbara Boehm



Adam Romney



Georgia Hamann

Mindful Journey to India

Join us in 2018 on a Mindful Journey to India! India has become a favourite destination for Mindful Journey's and we have brought it back by popular demand. This is an opportunity to travel with other U.U.'s and to enjoy the wonder and colours of India. Daily meditations and evening reflections help us to experience our travel more fully.

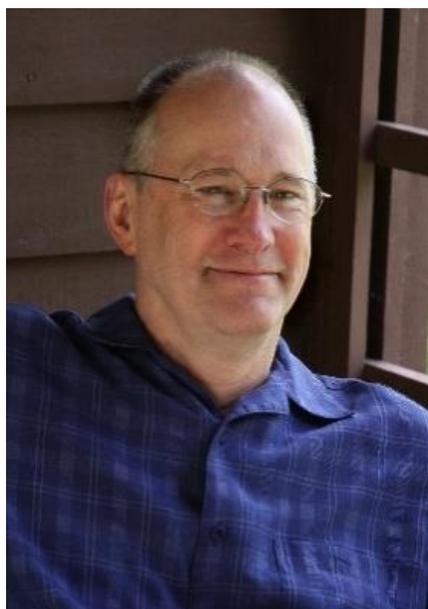
Please contact me if you would like an itinerary of the trip and information about Mindful Journey. I will gladly send you our ebooklet of Mindful Journey's from 2006 to 2016 with comments and stories from our travelers.

Contact: Joan Walder email: saranac2@gmail.com

Philip Gulley will *BE HERE!*

**Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation on
Saturday, October 21, 10AM – 11:30AM. \$5 at the door.**

**The workshop he will be offering is
“The Awakened Soul”**



“*Phil Gulley* is a delightful combination of Garrison Keillor, Will Rogers and your local minister. While his message is about the radical and inclusive love of God, his style is so warm and witty you find yourself simply charmed into new insights about faith. As a pastor of a church who brings in many nationally-known speakers and teachers, I am sometimes impressed with their acumen but disappointed with their effect upon our spiritual community. Phil has an uncanny ability to both challenge and upbuild the church at the same time. He will warm your heart, open your mind and animate your congregation’s spirit.” --Dr. James Keck, Sr. Minister First Plymouth Congregational Church, Lincoln NE

“*Philip Gulley* had hardly left our church before people were asking about when we could have him back. I wholeheartedly echo the sentiments of the congregation, who found Philip to be humorous and humble and refreshingly authentic. I find that his wisdom about the challenging nature of church and faith has struck a chord

with our community and has called us to look carefully at who we are and how we are living out the Gospel in our place and time. Philip was a prophetic presence in our services and I will welcome the opportunity to have him teach and preach at Cathedral of Hope again.” -- Rev. Dr. Jo Hudson, Cathedral of Hope, Dallas TX

“Gulley tells his stories with a bright intelligence, a wry wink and warm-hearted good humor, which are at the same time tender, thought provoking and downright hilarious.”

– CARRIE NEWCOMER, singer and songwriter

PHILIP GULLEY BIO

Philip Gulley is a Quaker pastor and writer and speaker from Danville, Indiana where he lives today with his wife, Joan, and two dogs, Ruby and Jack. Many of his characters and recollections are taken from his boyhood in this small Midwestern town.

Gulley attended Marian University in Indianapolis where he studied theology and sociology. He then enrolled at Christian Theological Seminary where he received his Master of Divinity in 1992. While in seminary, he became the pastor of Irvington Friends Meeting in Indianapolis and began writing essays for the church's newsletter. Paul Harvey, Jr. received those newsletters and shared them with a publisher. A few months later, the publisher invited Gulley to publish his essays, which resulted in *Front Porch Tales*, his first book in the best-selling *Porch Talk* series of inspirational and humorous essays. He has been writing ever since.

An eclectic writer, Gulley has now published 20 books, including the acclaimed *Harmony* series chronicling life in the eccentric Quaker community of Harmony, Indiana. Gulley's latest fictional series continues the exploits of Sam Gardner, first introduced in the *Harmony* series. The new *Hope* series includes *A Place Called Hope*, and *A Lesson in Hope*, his most recent fictional release.

Gulley's memoir, *I Love You, Miss Huddleston: And Other Inappropriate Longings of My Indiana Childhood*, recounts his coming-of-age years in Danville, Indiana. It was recognized as an Indiana Book of the Year, and was a semi-finalist for the James Thurber Prize for American Humor.

Gulley has also written several books of theology. He and co-author James Mulholland describe their progressive worldview in their books *If Grace Is True* and *If God Is Love*. Gulley then went on to write *If the Church Were Christian* in which he presents a profound picture of what the church could look like if it refocused on the priorities of Jesus. In his book *The Evolution of Faith* he proposes a fresh direction for Christianity and articulates a Christianity that, while faithful to the priorities of Jesus, can help its adherents live happily, peacefully, and productively in our complex world. The Nobel laureate Desmond Tutu said of that book, "In our ever-changing world, Gulley's book is much needed. An important book for any person of faith."

In his most recently published theological work, *Living the Quaker Way: Timeless Wisdom for a Better Life Today*, Gulley offers the opportunity to participate in a world where the values of the Quaker way bring equity, peace, healing, and hope. He invites his readers to encounter the defining commitments of the Religious Society of Friends—*simplicity, peace, integrity, community* and *equality*, and shows how those ideals can be incorporated in personal and public life to bring renewal and eliminate the clutter that is keeping us from deeper spirituality.

Gulley is currently working on what will be his 21st book entitled *The Awakened Soul*. Many years ago, the great psychologist Abraham Maslow described the traits of happy, healthy people. Maslow recognized the importance of spirituality in helping people become "self-actualized." In this upcoming book, Gulley will reflect upon those characteristics and their contribution to our well-being. Healthy churches commit themselves to spiritual well-being. Maslow's observations, properly interpreted and updated, offer a positive way forward for thoughtful seekers across the theological spectrum.

Gulley has served as a Quaker pastor for 30 years, currently pastoring Fairfield Friends Meeting in Camby, Indiana. Additionally, he hosted the television program *Porch Talk with Phil Gulley* on the Indiana PBS affiliate WFYI and their flagship show *Across Indiana*, for which he received two Emmy® Awards. He also writes the popular monthly *Home Again* column for *Indianapolis Monthly* and is a regular contributor to *The Saturday Evening Post*. In 2010, Christian Theological Seminary awarded Gulley an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. In 2014, Gulley was presented with an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Franklin College, in recognition of his body of work.

CARING AND CONCERNS NEIGHBORHOOD CONTACTS

As school starts up and our lives become busier, it can become harder to stay connected. If we all make an effort to stay in touch, our community will remain close. If you need assistance with a situation or want to share a joy, call your Neighborhood Contact. We're here and ready to help.

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.

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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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