

VUUPOINT

November 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.

Faith is a Verb

November 5 *Faith of Our Ancestors: Lessons of Those Gone Before* The Reverend Doctor Andy Burnette
The Adult Choir and the Chalice Ringers will perform.

November 12 *God or No God? That is Not the Question* The Reverend Doctor Andy Burnette
Martha and Brad Edwards on horn and trombone,

November 19 *VISION SUNDAY AND New Member Ceremony* Reverend Mary Katherine Morn
The Worship Band, the Adult Choir and the Chalice Singers will all perform.

November 26 *Unitarian Universalism: A Faith Centered on Gratitude* The Reverend Doctor Andy Burnette
Guest pianist Tingshuo from ASU will play piano.

November Events at a Glance

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 11/01 November Theme: Faith is a Verb | 11/16 White Trash...Book Discussion |
| 11/03 Prescott Retreat | N.S.G Book Club |
| 11/04 Hurricane Aide Benefit | 11/17 Happy HoUUr |
| 11/05 FUUN d Together Kickoff | 11/18 Singles to Herberger Theater |
| Congregational Conversation | 11/19 Vision Sunday |
| Journey to Membership | Newsletter Deadline |
| 11/06 Columbus and Other Cannibals | 11/21 Interfaith Thanksgiving Service |
| What is the Best Diet For Me workshop | 11/24 Singles Monthly Dinner |
| 11/08 Valley Interfaith Project | 11/26 Women’s Group Meet |
| 11/09 East VUUs Meet | Great Books Discussion |
| 11/10 Caring for Caregivers | Adopt A Family begins |
| 11/12 Difficult Conversations | 11/30 White Trash...Book Discussion |
| Recognition Sunday | |
| JASS | |

Wednesdays – Adult Choir, Chalice Singers & Chalice Ringers Rehearse
Sundays – Dalai Lama & Friends

“A Moment with the Minister”



Faith is a verb. This little phrase, our November theme, reminds me of a story recounted by UU minister and religious educator Jeanne Harrison Nieuwejaar in her book “Fluent in Faith.” Quoting a well-known rabbi, she wrote:

In his book Honey from the Rock, Rabbi Lawrence Kushner tells of visiting a Hebrew school and asking the children there how many of them believe in God. To his dismay, not a single hand went up. Eventually he thought to ask instead how many of them ever felt close to God. Showing no awareness of the contradiction, every child raised a hand. They talked about feeling close to God when helping their parents, when lighting Sabbath candles, when they felt angry and sad at a grandparent’s death. Too often it seems we get hung up on the question of ‘believing in’ when what really matters is ‘closeness to’ — or faith.

What if we decided to stop talking about what we believe in and start talking about our faith? Where in your life do you feel closest to God, or love itself, or goodness? The answer to that question probably offers some clues about where you place your faith. And faith, not belief, is what Unitarian Universalism is all about. Quoting Harrison Nieuwejaar once more:

As we strive to create safe communities and to foster intimacy and ultimacy in the small-group ministries of our congregations (that’s Chalice Circles at VUU), we work to deepen faith. As we design meaningful opportunities for living our faith — in soup kitchens, in nursing homes, in the work of advocacy and protest — we support this dimension of our living... as we shape the world around us to be more whole and healthy, more hopeful and just, those feelings of wholeness and hope grow within us as well. It is the true work of our congregations.

So much more than intellectual conversations about whether or not there is a god out there somewhere, faith is a closeness to love and good which transforms our lives and the world. It is the beating heart of religion. Experiencing faith somehow, in something, is an essential part of being human.

So, I encourage you to get curious this month. If you’re a theist, ask an atheist where they place their faith. If you’re an atheist, ask a theist what kind of God they have faith in. And if you’re agnostic, well, you can just ask everybody where their faith lies. Faith is a verb. I’m glad to be faith-ing with you!

With love,
Rev. Andy

*Faith and doubt are needed to take us
around the unknown curve.*

-Lillian Smith-

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Dear friends of VUU,

The board has had a busy month with one extra meeting as well as a retreat during which we have laid out plans for the rest of the fall and into the next calendar year.

First, VUU's **Vision Sunday** will be an all-congregation event, including a special guest speaker - the Rev. Mary Katherine Morn - from the UUA, followed by a catered congregational meal on Sunday, November 19. You are not only invited, but urged to attend this very special event. To make sure we have enough food, and have contacted everyone in the congregation, please [RSVP here](#). We look forward to spending a special hour of worship and fellowship afterwards with every member and friend who can attend.

Second, there is a VUU **Congregational Conversation** on Sunday, November 5. During this meeting, we will review our current finance status, stewardship update, board goals for the year (including capital campaign plans), an upcoming change to UUA annual dues, and initial VUU Survey findings. We hope you can also join us for this important business-related meeting.

Third, the board created only 3 goals this year: 1) complete capital campaign planning, 2) finalize end statement measures, and 3) create board document repository. We will clarify these a bit more during the congregational conversation mentioned above, but we wanted to put specific emphasis on the capital campaign planning as we feel this is our priority for the year.

Last, we would like to say goodbye to Jess Nierad as she leaves the board for personal reasons. We thank her for her volunteer work on the board including acting as the secretary. Jess--you will be missed! The board appointed Bob Fabre as her replacement based on the Leadership Development Committee recommendation during this week's meeting. Welcome to Bob!

Looking forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Warm regards,
Paul Schneider
President
VUU Board of Trustees



Faith is taking the first step even when
you don't see the whole staircase.
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Photo by [Geran de Klerk](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Faith Formation Ministry November 2017

World Religions Mural

at Valley UU, in education complex



Artist MJ Adamovic designed the mural and is assisting the children and youth in filling in the symbols with color, stop by to see our work in progress!

Mural Legend:

1. Baha'i – Baha'is believe in the essential worth of all religions, the unity and equality of all people, and in one God who has been manifested by several prophets, including the Bahá'u'lláh who was revealed in 1863. The sacred book is the Kitáb-i-Aqdas
2. Islam – A monotheistic, Abrahamic religion as revealed through the prophet Muhammad. The sacred book is the Qur'an.
3. Confucianism - A way of life taught by Confucius, best understood as an all-encompassing humanism that is compatible with other forms of religion. The sacred books are the Four Books and the Five Classics.
4. Religious Humanism - An integration of humanist ethical philosophy with religious rituals and beliefs that center on human needs, interests, and abilities.
5. Hinduism – The “oldest religion in the world”, its concept of God is complex and depends upon the tradition and philosophy followed. The sacred texts are classified into Śruti ("heard") and Smṛti ("remembered").
6. Jainism – A non-theistic religion that teaches that the way to liberation and bliss is to live a life of harmlessness and renunciation. The aim of Jain life is to achieve liberation of the soul. The sacred books are the Agamas.
7. Wiccanism - Beliefs range from polytheism to pantheism, to Goddess monotheism. It is a nature religion that celebrates the changing of the seasons. The Book of Shadows contains various texts and scriptures that are important.
8. Judaism - An ancient monotheistic, Abrahamic religion, it encompasses the religion, philosophy, and culture of the Jewish people. It is considered to be the expression of the covenant that God established with the Children of Israel. The sacred text is the Torah.
9. Christianity – An Abrahamic, monotheistic religion based on the life and teachings of Jesus, who is believed to be the Son of God and the Savior of Humanity. The sacred text is the Bible.

10. Native American – Theology may be monotheistic, polytheistic, henotheistic, animistic, or some combination thereof. Traditional beliefs are usually passed down in the form of oral histories. Note: The Kokopelli symbol is often used in Hopi cultures, derived from ancient Anasazi.
11. Unitarian Universalism - A liberal religion, without a creed or dogma, with 7 Principles and Purposes as its guide. UUs concepts about deity are diverse. UUs recognize the sacredness of many texts.
12. Buddhism – A “non-theistic” religion that encompasses a variety of traditions, beliefs, and spiritual practices, based on teachings of the Buddha. The basic principles are: The Four Noble Truths, the Noble Eightfold Path and The Five Precepts. The sacred texts are Sutras: the words and teachings of the Buddha.
Note: Zen Buddhists do not emphasize the sacred texts.
13. Shintoism – The ethnic religion of Japan that focuses on ritual practices to establish a connection between present-day Japan and its ancient past. The name translates as “the way of the Gods”. The sacred texts refer to a collection of native beliefs and mythology. The sacred texts are the *Kojiki* (Records of Ancient Matters) and the *Nihon-gi* (Chronicles of Japan), compilations of ancient myths and traditional teachings.

NEW OUR WHOLE LIVES CLASS, BEGINNING JANUARY 21ST



OUR WHOLE LIVES for “Spectacled Owls”

Kindergarten & 1st graders

Children & Parents’ Combo Class

This class will address topics, such as anatomy, family structures, how babies are made and safe touch. Parents are in the class with their child as active participants. The goal is to open communication within the family, because parents are a child’s primary sexuality educator.

Mandatory Orientation for Children and Parents: Sunday, January 21 from 12:30-3:30 p.m.
Room 2, complimentary childcare available upon request.

SCHEDULE: Sunday mornings in Room 2 from 9-10 a.m. January 28 through April 15 (*class will NOT meet on 2/18, 3/11, 3/18 or 4/1*). Snack will be provided. This is a covenanted class, and full attendance is expected. Each class has a homework assignment.

COST: \$25 per VUU Child (\$35 per non-member) & 2 books: \$13 & \$15 Fees are non-refundable, due at orientation

TO REGISTER: Sign-up online at <http://www.vuu.org/edu/whole-lives-human-sexuality-classes-offered-2017-2018/>, at the Faith Formation welcome table, or contact Marci Beudoin, VUU DFF at faithform@vuunet.org or 480-899-4249.

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

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

NEW ADULT FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

COLUMBUS AND OTHER CANNIBALS

“Why is the dominant culture so excruciatingly, relentlessly, insanely, genocidally, ecocidally, suicidally destructive?” (Jack D. Forbes) Come explore with us the nativist concept of Wétiko, a contagious disease of the soul that Forbes claims has infected most of the world. It’s evidenced by aggression and violence, hate and greed, and consumes everything, including people’s lives.

What can we do to inoculate or cure ourselves? What can we do for the rest of the world? Let’s talk about it. We’ll meet on the 1st Monday of every month, November through May (except January) at 7:00 p.m. in the VUU conference room. It’s a small room so attendance will be limited.

To sign up contact Jayne Burgess at Jayne@JayneBurgess.com, Jerry Gnoza at Jerry.Gnoza@gmail.com, or Jessica Gnoza at Jessica.McCulla@gmail.com.

ONGOING ADULT FAITH FORMATION OFFERINGS

Book Discussion on “White Trash: The 400-Year Untold History of Class in America” by Nancy Isenberg



In four sessions, we will discuss Isenberg’s work, which offers a history of what are sometimes considered ‘expendable people’ in America. Resources from other authors and artists will be brought in to enhance the discussion.

7 pm - 8:30 pm, in the sanctuary: November 16, and 30.

Great Books discussion group

The VUU Great Books Reading and Discussion Group will continue our Politics, Leadership, and Justice series in November. This month, we have a short reading and a poem. We will discuss The Melian Dialogue by Thucydides and selections from Tao Te Ching by Lao-tzu.

We will meet in Classroom 5, Sunday, November 26th, from 7-9pm. All are welcome!

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



What is the best diet for me?

A research and discussion group facilitated by Jerry Waters. Group meets 7 – 9 pm, on the 1st Mondays of each month, in the board room in the Valley UU office building.

I know what my answer is, and this personal decision must be made by all of us. Eating is a very individual and enjoyable activity. You may have a particular health condition that you want to help with your diet. We can explore what various experts recommend and look at promised improvements. The seventh UU principle calls for respect for the interdependent web of existence. Is our diet one way to show our regard for this principle?

The group will decide what topics to explore over the next several months. The Paleo diet, the Pritiken diet, the Mediterranean diet are all be possible topics. A list of references such as that championed by Drs. Dean Ornish, T. Colin Campbell, McDougall, Esselstyn and others will be provided.



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 November 16 at 7:15 p.m. The book is Small Great Things, a novel by Jodi Picoult. With incredible empathy, intelligence, and candor, the author tackles race, privilege, prejudice, justice, and compassion – and doesn't offer easy answers.

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

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.

Please note November meeting canceled and rescheduled.

Our schedule for this year: December 7, January 25, February 22, March 22, April 26, and May 24.

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.



MUSIC & MORE

MANY THANKS FOR A GREAT CABARET!

Ken St. John, producer, and Rick Hinrichs, co-producer, did a fantastic job this year on our annual Cabaret show. The horn section was a real treat and made those Chicago pieces come alive! The Adult Choir, with Hillary Cully as soloist, did such a great job on *Bohemian Rhapsody* that it is possible I will have to find a Sunday service when that piece will fit. All the many soloists, back-up singers and instrumentalists did a stellar job. And thanks to those who helped set-up, helped serve, helped advertise, and stayed late to clean-up - we couldn't have done it without each of you. It was well-attended, people had fun, new friends were made, and I don't think anyone cried or had terrible stage fright. 😊 So what ideas do you have for next year's theme, Ken and Rick? I want to start thinking about my costume now!

CHOIR MUSIC: On November 5th, when we are honoring our faith tradition and people who came before us (feel free to bring something to put on our Altar of Memory), the choir is singing a piece called "Child of Song" by Norwegian composer Kim Andre Arnesen. Written in memory of composer Stephen Paulus and premiered by the world-renowned choir Vocal Essence, this tender song is beautifully set to a poem by Welsh poet Euan Tait. Lyrics include this lovely line: "No child of song falls into silence, but into love's rest." Here is a link to the Vocal Essence recording:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=6qfpgfrRK-Q

On November 19th the Adult Choir joins with the Chalice Singers, Valley UU's children's choir, to sing *The Human Heart*, a song from the musical *Once Upon an Island*. This song reminds us that we are all part of the same human family. Here is a link to a YouTube recording made by a high school choir, who were apparently told NOT to move!;

www.youtube.com/watch?v=k1LT4qPkQes

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The annual Tempe Interfaith Fellowship's Thanksgiving Service will be on **Tuesday November 21 at 7 PM here at Valley UU!** If any of you want to join our Adult choir and others from different faith traditions in singing UU composer Elizabeth Alexander's *No Other People's Children*, please plan to attend our rehearsal at VUU from 8 to 9 PM on Wednesday Nov. 15.

All of our CHOIRS always accept new members!

Chalice Singers (Grade K-6) rehearse Wed. 6:15 -7 PM (Sanctuary Kitchen)

Chalice Ringers (Bell Choir) rehearse Wed. 6 to 7:15 PM (Sanctuary)

Adult Choir rehearses Wed. 7:30 to 9 PM (Sanctuary)

-Rev. Kellie Walker Hart (music@vuu.org)

Faith is an oasis in the heart which can never by the caravan of thinking.

-Kahlil Gibran

JOURNEY TO MEMBERSHIP THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5!

Journey to Membership Sessions 2017-18

Upcoming Sessions:

- **SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5, 2017**
 - Noon until 3:30, Rooms 1 & 2, Religious Education Building
- **SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2018**
 - Noon until 3:30, VUU Sanctuary
- **SUNDAY MAY 6, 2018**
 - Noon until 3:30, VUU Sanctuary
- **SUNDAY AUGUST 19, 2018**
 - Noon until 3:30, Rooms 1 & 2, Religious Education Building

Led by Rev. Dr. Andy Burnette and Rev. Kellie Walker Hart.

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

Contact Rev. Kellie Walker Hart at music@vuu.org or the VUU office at office@vuu.org to register. Lunch provided and babysitting is available if requested in advance.

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



Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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

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



VUU COMMUNITY

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 12th. Please mark the date, as we celebrate the service and contributions of... David Sheh!

Please consider making a contribution to the VUU Endowment Fund in honor of David. Donations of \$50 to \$100 are common, and often we receive larger contributions. But of course, donations of any amount are 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 12th. The Endowment Fund is made of generous contributions from VUU members who donate to the fund through annual contributions as well as estate 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.

Fittingly, 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, just one of the many committees upon which David Sheh has served our congregation. Also, the Special Funds committee has voted to approve several 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 |  | Charlotte Ward | 2006 |
| Bunny Clarke | 1996 |  | Neria Ryder | 2007 |
| Jan Christian | 1997 |  | Betty Nering | 2008 |
| Roger Smith | 1998 |  | Lauree Perry | 2009 |
| Hill Wood | 1999 |  | Jim Nielsen | 2010 |
| Larry Visotsky | 2000 |  | Loyd Means | 2011 |
| Bob Clarke | 2001 |  | Barb Quijada | 2012 |
| JoAnne Smith | 2002 |  | Debbie Simpkins | 2013 |
| Roger Axford | 2003 |  | All the Children of VUU | 2014 |
| Debbie Dinyes | 2004 |  | Anne Schneider | 2016 |
| Todd Heglind | 2005 |  | | |

Read More About David:

David has been a Unitarian for 18 years and a member of VUU for 16 of those. His day job is as a software engineer, and he brings that detailed, analytical mind to his volunteer activities, as well. Much of David's activity is seen each week in Sunday services. He has been an usher for twelve years, and was Head Usher for four. He is an active member of the tech team, a role he's had for more than twelve years, having attended his first wired meeting in 2003. And many recent membership classes will recognize David from his past five years serving on the membership committee. He also spent seven years on the VUU Board, including three years as president, one as secretary and one in an advisory role.

He is equally active behind the scenes. David has served on a half dozen Stewardship drives, for many years on Green Sanctuary and on the Personnel committee for ten years, four of which he chaired. This will be his second year serving as chair of Finance, a committee on which he has been a member for the past eight years. And David serves on Leadership Development Committee (formerly known as the Nominating Committee), where he is in his second two-year term. David feels fortunate to be part of this committee in the "Leadership Development" era where he enjoys performing the annual seminars and supporting all the leadership of our congregation.

But it's not all work – David also enjoys VUU activities such as Cabaret, singles events, I-Help, and auctions. He also plays in the Bell Choir.

David's work for our denomination goes beyond our congregation. He currently serves as Secretary for the Pacific Southwest Region (PSWD) Board, and also as Denominational Connections chair for VUU. David is also starting his third year as VUU's congregational contact to UUJAZ. He has been to numerous District Assemblies and General Assemblies.

Thank you, David, for the many years of service to VUU and our community. We are honored to be able to recognize you on this 2017 Recognition Sunday for all the ways you contribute to making our community run effectively and efficiently!

Sincerely,

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



VUU SOCIAL ACTION MINISTRY

Promoting Social, Economic and Environmental Justice

Looking for Coordinator(s) for Green Sanctuary Garden

We are looking for one or two people who want to coordinate work in the **Green Sanctuary Garden**.

Some of the primary responsibilities include:

- involve the congregation in the mission of the garden
- nurture a relationship with the charities that we supply
- strive to make helping in the garden a positive experience
- communicate to the GS team and the congregation of volunteer opportunities in the garden, through several channels available.

- plan what and when to plant for a fall/winter garden and spring/summer garden

We are lucky to have many people that can help in the garden, but we need to find someone that is willing to provide a coordination leadership role. For a more complete list of what the Garden does, please contact socialaction@vuu.org or talk with Willa Cree.

Upcoming VIP meetings

Our partners, Valley Interfaith Project, are having several “civic academies” in the next few months that may be of interest:

- Nov. 8, 6:00 – Myths and Lies that Threaten Public Schools-Charter Schools, with Dr. David Berliner, 6-9 pm at Bustoz Elementary, Tempe.
- Nov. 8, 6:30 – Health Care in Arizona, Franciscan Renewal Center, Paradise Valley

ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND ANY/ALL OF THESE EVENTS. For more information on our VUU partnership with VIP, how you can become more involved with VIP or the civic academies, please talk with Carter Rogers or **Willa Cree**, or email socialaction@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 AND something to do this summer? Make a commitment to help feed the hungry at Paz de Cristo on a second Friday in November and December. Each month, VUU needs 20 volunteers to satisfy our long running commitment to this wonderful charity. [Please check here for availability and sign up](#) – we’d love to serve with you! Send questions to pazdecristo@vuu.org

Paz de Cristo November Donation of the Month – Stuffing and Cranberries

Please support our focus charity, Paz de Cristo, by bringing in a donation of stuffing and cranberries so that those in need will be able to celebrate Thanksgiving. Please drop off your donation in the bin in the foyer. Thanks for your support!

I-HELP (Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program) needs your HELP! Would you like to know more about this important ministry? Do you want to get involved? Our Sanctuary serves as an Emergency Shelter on Monday evenings for people experiencing homelessness. We need help serving them a meal. Do you just love washing sheets!?! I’m sure we can find something for you to do so contact Sue at office@vuu.org **I-HELP guests need feminine hygiene items, sunscreen, razors and deodorant. Bring your donations with you on Sunday and leave them in the collection area in the Sanctuary foyer.**

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 :Nov 12 (please note DATE CHANGE): 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 **More info on page 14.**



The holidays are coming! Lots of family gatherings!

Difficult Conversations and How to Have Them

Sunday, November 12th

12:00 pm to 1:30 pm – VUU Sanctuary

Light snacks provided, or b.y.o

Using The Ladder Of Inference to:

- Understand how we jump to bad conclusions.
- Gain insight into our own process of drawing conclusions.
- Examine how to use this process in difficult conversations.

Check out these videos to get ready for the training session.

1. The Ladder of Inference Creates Bad Judgment – Ed Muzio
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K9nFhs5W8o8>
2. Ladder of Inference – Film Clips – Humor <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6deHZzV4vHM>

2018 FUUN d Together Kicks off on November 5th

As our website proclaims, VUU is a vibrant community and as such, most of us love to get together and have **FUUN!!!** One of the easiest ways to celebrate with old friends and to make new friendships is be a part of the annual **FUUN d Together** auction. Here's how it works.

During the months of November and December, VUU members and friends sign up to host dinners, luncheons, movie nights, hikes, and other events and/or to share their talents by offering lessons, legal services, home repair, delivering baked goods, loaning their vacation homes, etc. A catalog of all these donations is created, and on Sunday mornings in February, the donations are sold by silent auction.

Absolutely everyone is invited to join the **FUUN d!!** Visit us at the **FUUN d** table after services beginning November 4th. The **FUUN d** Team will joyfully accept your donation, explain more about the auction, and provide tons of ideas about what you might want to donate.

P.S. Last year we raised \$18,000 having **FUUN d Together**. Help us continue to support VUU's mission of love, service, and justice by participating this year.

The greatest act of faith some days is to simply get up and face another day.

-Amy Gatliff

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 2017 are:

10 to 19 years:

*Jayne Burgess
Gilda Czerwonka
Barbara Face
Megan Kimball & Chris Sar
Jillian & Brian Kong-Sivert
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!



Books for VUU Library:

A few months ago, we decided that November would be a good month to ask people to buy gift books for VUU's library. However, with all the recent disasters, we decided that the money potentially spent on books would be better spent helping with some of the disasters. Therefore, we are asking for donations of books you already have, ones you think would be appropriate for a congregational library. To prevent duplications of books we already have, please check the Library Catalog on our website, VUU.org or check the hard copy in the library. It is in a white binder on the left as you enter the library.

Our categories are: Biographies & Memoirs; Children's Welfare; Death & Dying; Environment & Nature; Fiction (social issues); History; LGBTQ; Poetry & Meditation; Politics, World Affairs & Social Issues; Psychology & Philosophy; Two categories of Religion: Religion Specific (those pertaining to a specific religion, for instance Christianity, Buddhism, Taoism, etc.) and Religion Other (books on religion that are not specific to a particular religion); Seniors; Unitarian Universalist; and Women.

If you have questions or comments, please contact Johnnie Godfrey, jognniegirl85218@gmail.com, H:480-839-0544, C: 480-231-8381.

ADOPT A FAMILY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Valley UU Congregation will again be adopting a family from the Save the Family Foundation for this holiday season. This year, it's a mom and 2 young sons. Starting November 26th, Lauree Perry & Frank Quijada will be outside by an Adopt A Family little tree with "ornaments" that are wishes for each person and general needs for the family. With many people from our congregation participating, we should be able to ensure a very happy holiday season for them!

If you do choose to participate, all gifts must be new, wrapped, and returned to VUU by December 17th. For more information, please contact Lauree Perry at lperry98@earthlink.net, or Frank Quijada at Frank.quijada@gmail.com



EVENTS



HURRICANE AIDE CONCERT featuring the music of the Soulstice Band!

On *Saturday, November 4 at 7:00PM*, the Soulstice Band will play for a family-friendly dance party in the Valley UU Sanctuary (6400 W Del Rio St., Chandler 85226).

This event is to help victims of the recent hurricanes.

There will be a free-will donation at the door, and all proceeds will be donated to the UUA Hurricane Relief Fund.

For those who have not yet heard the Soulstice Band, they play a danceable mix of Classic & Oldie Rock, Blues, and Country. This is a great way to have fun while raising money for a good cause! Please mark the date!

Check out the Soulstice Band here:

<https://www.facebook.com/TheSoulsticeBand/#>





First Sunday of each month – THERE IS A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5! SEE PAGE 3 FOR PAUL SCHNEIDER’S LETTER ABOUT THIS MEETING. PLAN ON ATTENDING THIS MEETING AFTER THE SERVICE THIS SUNDAY!

JASS

Jam Acoustic Second Sunday (JASS) happens every second Sunday in Rooms 1/2 this month. Following in the VUU tradition, “all instruments are welcome here” (though it is generally an acoustic, non-amplified group).



EastVUUs

Meeting every month on the 2nd Thursday. Come join us November 9 @ 6:30 p.m. for potluck @ Apache Wells Homeowners Association - Community Building Mesa. 2223 N 56th St, Mesa. Follow the signs from entrance.

This is a newly forming group of VUU members living in the far 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. All members and friends of VUU living in the far East Valley are invited to attend. Contact Sharon @ 1004slk1950@gmail.com or 815-252-2528 for more information.

Wayfarers

Happy HoUUr on Friday, November 17, will return to The Perch in downtown Chandler, 232 S Wall Street. For more information contact Jan Waters at 608-201-2207, or email: watersjj9790@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER IS NOVEMBER 19

VUU Singles

Saturday, November 18 Arizona Theater Company Play at Herberger Theater, leaving at 5:30 for dinner and the 8:00 show.

The River Bride, Winner of the 2013 National Latino Playwriting Award. Brazilian folklore and lyric storytelling blend into a heartrending tale of true love, regret, transformation, and the struggle to stay true to your family while staying true to yourself. We'll meet up at the Starbucks at Elliot and Priest to carpool to a Phoenix restaurant near the theater. **Firm reservations must be made by 10/15. Limit 8 tickets.** RSVP text or call Claudette 973-768-6047

Friday, November 24, 6:30 pm, Singles Monthly Dinner--The Perfect Pear Bistro, 9845 S. Priest Dr, Tempe

This has become a Thanksgiving weekend tradition. Come join us stragglers in town for a holiday meal with close friends. RSVP text or call Claudette, 973-768-6047 **by Wed Nov 22.**

Saturday December 16 Singles Holiday Party at Renee’s House SAVE THE DATE



Caring for Caregivers event offered at VUU Nov 11th from 10-12

Caring for a close friend or family member can be one of the most important roles we can play. It may start with driving to get groceries or to church and evolve from there. No matter where you are in that journey, having a framework to help guide you along the path can make things easier for everyone.

This program will offer practical tools and resources to help you feel you have the support you need.

This free event will be offered by Brenda Holt community outreach liaison from the Arizona chapter of AARP.

This event is sponsored by your Lay Pastoral Care Committee.

Mark your calendars!

When: Saturday November 11th, 2017 from 10-12 noon

Where: VUU Education Rooms 1&2

Sign up: email Sue Ringler at office@vuu.org you may also call 480-899-4249.

SAVE THE DATE - VUU Lay Pastoral Care Associates' Upcoming Program

Beginning in January 2018, the VUU Lay Pastoral Care Associates will be sponsoring an adult education program titled **Facing Death with Life**. This program facilitates a process of personal reflection, learning and spiritual growth focused on the topic of death and dying. It brings death and dying and grief into the light of our daily lives and out of the dark area of our lives which we often relegate it. This program is not a grief support group, nor is it an intellectual study of death. It includes sociological information and reflection, theological learning, personal and shared narrative, creative expression, journaling and practical learning and preparation. It helps us to move from viewing death as an abstract concept to developing an personal recognition of its meaning in our lives. This program invites participants to experience death and dying as a healthy part of life, including preparation, grieving and living on.

We will be offering some resources on popular topics which were requested in our Lay Pastoral Care survey last year like advance directives and completing or updating our life crisis forms.

This educational offering will be provided in 3 sessions - January 7th, 2018 - January 21st and February 4th. Each session will be about 2 hours each. It is meant to be offered as a series so if you register, please plan to attend all 3 classes. You won't want to miss out on any of these classes! The time will be after church and the location will be announced closer to the date.

Please sign up by emailing office@vuu.org or call the church office 480-899-4249 and let Sue Ringler know that you plan to attend.

VUU Women's Group – Sunday, November 26

Please join us in the sanctuary November 26, 2017 for a cold potluck and a chance to get acquainted with other women in the congregation. We will meet after the service and coffee hour, approximately 12:00. All women are welcome. It will be during the Thanksgiving weekend; feel free to bring guests. Bring a dish to share, but if you haven't brought one, stay anyway. We always have lots of food. The topic will be announced later.

For questions or comments please contact Johnnie Godfrey, johnniegirl85218@gmail.com, H:480-839-0544, C: 480-231-8381.

The Gilded Age Meets Downton Abbey.

Cora, of Downton Abbey fame, is the inspiration for this journey. She was based on the American heiresses who arrived in England during the late 1800s and married for love or to rescue a great estate in distress. We will focus on some of these heiresses, while we explore their homes and visit Downton Abbey film sites. Highclere Castle was the home of heiress Lady Almina Carnarvon, and was also used as the fictional home of Cora. American Consuelo Vanderbilt married the 9th Duke of Marlborough and saved Blenheim Palace with her fortune. Another heiress, Jennie Jerome, married the 8th Duke of Marlborough's brother, and gave birth to Winston Churchill there. The great-grandmother of Diana the Princess of Wales, was an American Heiress and the future kings of England are her descendants.

We'll stay for 5 nights in my favourite English city, Oxford - the unique university town of amazing bookstores, unusual architecture, historic pubs, and eclectic free museums. We see where JRR Tolkien met with the *Inklings*, Lewis Carroll dreamed up *Alice in Wonderland*, CS Lewis had a magical wardrobe, Inspector Morse solved many crimes, and Bill Clinton didn't inhale. Two nights in the Midlands and one in London complete our itinerary.

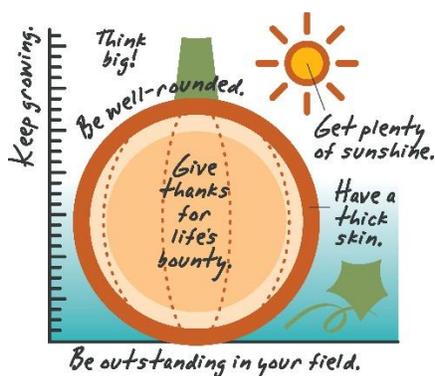
The challenge of this journey is that Highclere Castle and Althorp House aren't posting their opening times for 2018 until October, and we can't ask for tickets before then. At that time we can confirm the dates and the finalized itinerary and costs. We are aiming for May or September 2018. The journey will be mindful, fun, and informative, with some time for you to explore your interests – especially in Oxford. Email beverlz@me.com or see <https://nuuc.ca/spiritual-growth/spiritual-practice/mindful-journeys/> or <http://bevertz.wix.bevertzjourneys>

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's. I will gladly send you our ebooklet of Mindful Journey's from 2006 to 2016 with comments and stories from our travellers.

Contact: Joan Walder email: saranac2@gmail.com



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.

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 |
|--------------|--------------|------------------------|

Tempe South - Zips: 85283, 85284

| | | |
|---------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| DiAnna Farmer | 480-413-0293 | dianna_farmer@hotmail.com |
|---------------|--------------|---------------------------|

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 | 443-890-5387 | 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 |
|------------------------|--------------|----------------------|

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

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|--------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| 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, Minister of Music
Marci Beaudoin, Director of Faith Formation
Sue Ringler, Congregation Administrator
Joe Martin, Maintenance Technician
Jill Khaleghi, pianist

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