

VUUPOINT January 2018



Sunday Services 10:30 A.M.

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



VUU Website: <http://www.vuu.org/>

VUU Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/ValleyUU/>

Sunday Services 10:30 A.M.

December 31 *Can you imagine?*

Presented by Rebecca Riggs

The ability to creatively fantasize the possible, the improbable, and even the impossible, is a gift that gives humanity boundless hope. What gifts of imagination do we bring to the new year?

Call to Justice, Equity and Compassion

January 7 *Spark Seekers*

Rabbi John Linder

Jewish Mythology and Healing the World. Join Rabbi Linder as he explores the values of justice, equality and compassion through the lens of Jewish creativity. The worship band and guest pianist Jack Wisniewski will play.

January 14 *"My Sister's Keeper"* A Dramatic Reading by Reverend Joan Crawford & Bernella Phelps

Today's dramatic reading is taken from the book *Just a Sister Away* written in 1988 by Renita J. Weems. The Reverend Dr. Renita Weems is a nationally recognized Old Testament scholar, womanist theologian and ordained AME minister. She writes in the foreword: *Just a Sister Away* attempts to combine the best of the fruits of feminist biblical criticism with its passion for reclaiming and reconstructing the stories of biblical women, along with the best of the Afro-American oral tradition, with its gift for story-telling and its love of drama...What has emerged are creative reconstructions of the possible emotions and issues that motivated biblical women in their relations with each other. The Adult Choir will sing.

January 21 *Fall In Love*

Reverend Abigail Conley

These are the stories of white trash: the hard to love, the eccentric, the Trump voters, and our unseen neighbors.

January 28

Reverend Chris Gonzalez

The Adult Choir will sing.

Events at a Glance

12/31 Singles New Year's Party	1/18 N.S.G. Book Club
1/06 Save Our Schools March	1/19 Wayfarers Happy HoUUr
Singles 12 th Night Potluck	1/20 Unveil the Mystery of Service
1/07 VUUJAZ Conversations	1/21 OWL Orientation
UUJAZ Day at the Legislature Training	Newsletter Deadline
The Board Room	Great Books Discussion Group
1/08 What is the Best Diet for You?	1/24 Chalice Singers Rehearsal Begin
1/11 EastVUU Meeting/Potluck	1/25 Spirit of Life Reading Circle
1/14 JASS	1/28 VUU Women's Group
1/15 FUNNd Donation Deadline	OWL Classes Begin

Sundays – Dalai Lama & Friends

Wednesdays – Adult Choir & Chalice Ringers Rehearsals

Rev. Dr. Andy Burnette is on sabbatical this month. He returns Monday, Jan. 29.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Dear friends of VUU,

As we finish our first half of the VUU fiscal year and look into a new calendar year, the board continues to narrow its focus on the upcoming capital campaign. It seems like most of the activities and status of VUU all point to a growing momentum to support this effort.

First, I want to share some exciting news about how our current VUU campus could be updated. The capital campaign committee has completed several on-site meetings with commercial architects to review the possibilities of achieving our growing needs. Almost all of them agree on a somewhat similar layout that could include a new sanctuary, expanded parking lot, upgraded fellowship hall, and upgraded faith formation and office buildings over a multi-phased approach. The committee is in the process of working with each of these architects to produce information on next steps, costs, references, etc. Based on this information we expect to be close to choosing our preferred architect as well as have a plan for an official capital campaign vote at the end of the year. **This will all be presented in our Feb 4th Mid-Year meeting.**

From the financial review, we are starting to dig into our year-end budget projections. Although our initial projection is low, it is within range of our past healthy year projections at this time of year. The stewardship report, on the other hand, shows a very positive increase in pledges which should help with revenue in the current fiscal year. We expect that our projections will become clearer over the next quarter. Overall, the financial status of VUU shows significant stability over the past few years when compared to previous years.

As mentioned above, I would like to personally request your attendance at the **mid-year meeting on Feb 4th**. We will be discussing the upcoming capital campaign, financial review and end-year budget projections, special funds, and more. We will also be discussing the important topic of the UUA dues collection process change that is coming in 2019. All of this is very important to VUU's future and we would like you to be involved in the discussion.

Hope you see you at the Mid-Year Meeting.

Warm regards,

Paul Schneider

President

VUU Board of Trustees

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

Faith Formation Ministry January 2018

2017 is bowing out; a new year is ahead of us. 365 days providing a chance to grow, to celebrate, and to love. May the journey bring you a feeling of accomplishment and great joy!

Don't miss the opportunity to join our bi-annual service trip to build houses in the barrio of Agua Prieta, Mexico. We leave VUU at 8 am on Friday, March 16th and return Sunday, March 18th in the late afternoon.

Applications are available on the VUU website, use the Service trip tab

<http://www.vuu.org/edu/multi-generational-service-trip/>

Fundraising opportunities are available to offset the cost of the trip.

Looking forward to a year filled with amazing opportunities,

Marci Beaudoin, Director of Faith Formation ministry

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 Beaudoin, VUU DFF at faithform@vuug.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.

ONGOING ADULT FAITH FORMATION 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 2018: January 25, February 22, March 22, April 26, and May 24. 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in Room 1/2.

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.

Great Books discussion group

The VUU Great Books Reading and Discussion Group will meet on Sunday, January 21, 7p.m. - 9p.m., in Classroom 5, to discuss Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar". All are welcome!

Please contact Kevin Erdmann at kebko@yahoo.com if you have any questions or need directions.

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 January meeting will be on January 18 at 7:15 p.m.

The January book is A Wizard of Earthsea by Ursula LeGuin. A coming of age story, that explores Ged's process of learning to cope with power and come to terms with death. It explores the idea that language and names have power to affect the world. A classic fantasy story complete with wizards and dragons.

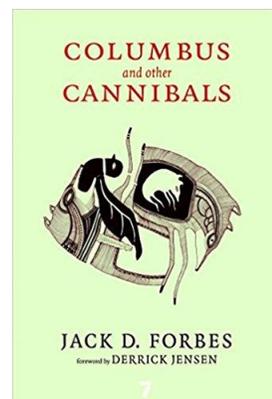
For the meeting address or questions, please contact Johnnie at 480-839-0544, Amy at 480-917-1922, or email: agmonahan@gmail.com.

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, February through May at 7:00 p.m. in the VUU board room.

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



What is the best diet for me?



A research and discussion group facilitated by Jerry Waters.

The next meeting to discuss "What is the Best Diet for Me" will be on Monday January 8, 2018, at 7p.m. in the VUU Board Room. We will discuss recipes and take a closer look at both Dr. McDougall and Dr. Esselstyne. Videos from each will be featured. Dr. McDougall has been a stalwart in the promotion of health by plant-based eating. His book "The Starch Solution" shows how starches are staples throughout the world. Dr. Esselstyne was a successful cardiac surgeon who reversed heart disease by proper diet selections. (Rumor has it he mows down on Peanut Butter Cups on New Years' Eve.)

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 9-10 a.m. 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



MUSIC & MORE

The musical duo **Emma's Revolution** is coming on **Saturday February 10th**! They will be giving a workshop on writing justice music and harmonizing at 2 p.m., with a concert in our sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. Watch for further details.

CHOIRS

Chalice Singers on break until January 24 (for grade K-6, rehearse Wednesdays 6:15 -7 p.m. in the Sanctuary Kitchen.

Chalice Ringers (Bell Choir) rehearse Wednesdays 6 to 7:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Adult Choir rehearses Wednesdays 7:30 to 9 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

The next Journey to Membership Session will be:

Sunday February 11, noon to 3:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.
Please contact office@vuu.org or music@vuu.org to register.

VUU COMMUNITY



HEY, CHARLIE BROWN! YOU'RE NOT TOO LATE TO HAVE **FUUNd**!!

I bet your first New Year's resolution for 2018 was to find new ways to become involved in VUU and to support our congregation in creating lives of integrity, service, and joy. Why not begin by donating an event or service to the **2018 FUUNd Together** auction? All you have to do is:

- 1) Think of a party, service, or **FUUNd** event you can host for old and new friends at VUU. Need ideas? Just ask!!
- 2) REGISTER your donation. Pick up a donation form at the **FUUNd Together** table after the service or email fuundtogether@vuu.org. **The deadline for donations is January 15!**

FUUNd Together offers unique opportunities to spend time with old and new friends while raising **FUUNd**s to support VUU. This is our largest **FUUNd** raiser, and it takes all of us – the whole village – to guarantee success. Please come see us on the patio after the service and join the **FUUNd**. We need your support and your **FUUNd** tastic ideas!! Make this the best year ever for having **FUUNd Together** at VUU!!

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 December 2017 are:

10 to 19 Years:
Joel & Melissa Sannes

20 to 29 Years:
Alice Casey
Lynn DeMuth
Kellie Walker Hart

50 to 59 Years:
Ginny & Bob Sanstedt

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

VUU Lay Pastoral Care Educational Offering

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 to 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 a 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 21st, 2018 - February 4th – February 18th. Reverend Andy will co-lead the last two sessions. Each session will be about 2 hours each, being held from 12noon – 2 p.m. in Room 6. 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!

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. You can also sign up at the January 14th service.



VUU SOCIAL ACTION MINISTRY

Promoting Social, Economic and Environmental Justice

Save Our Schools (SOS) March – Recommended by UUJAZ Education Task Force

When: Saturday, January 6, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon on the AZ Capitol Lawn

WHY: In January the AZ Legislature will convene for another session. As they continue to debate education policy and school funding, let's send a clear message that we, their constituents, will no longer accept business as usual.

Instead we demand: an increase in revenues to expand and stabilize the AZ workforce of qualified teachers; provide essential tools for students in classrooms across the state; repair and maintain school facilities; and STOP the taxpayer-funded voucher expansion.

Interested in carpooling? Please email Cathy Fitzgerald at cfitz1108@gmail.com who is our VUU representative on the UUJAZ education task force.

[Join VUUJAZ Conversations-Next Meeting Jan 7, 2018](#)

Please join with other VUUers interested in social justice (yes, that includes politics) for a "coffee, conversation, and public policy/politics" session Sunday, January 7, right after the service ON THE PATIO. Grab your coffee, snack, a chair, (and drag others who want to talk about social justice through politics and public policy) and make a circle on the patio. We will listen to each other, learn from each other, and speak up / show up for social justice in Arizona, the U.S., and the world. Please invite others to be a part of this monthly conversation. All points of view are respected here! For more information, contact anne.schneider@asu.edu

[UUJAZ DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE TRAINING – Jan 7, 2018](#)

VUU will again be participating in the UUJAZ-sponsored "day at the legislature" and our recruitment, orientation, and planning for it will begin on Sunday, January 7, at 1:30 p.m. in the VUU sanctuary. The day at the legislature is Feb. 19 (Monday, President's day). We will coordinate appointments with legislators as well as plan and brainstorm about what to say. You probably will have a chance to meet with others from YOUR legislative district! Hope to see you there. For more information, contact anne.schneider@asu.edu

[Understanding Promoting Social Action Events/Petitions at VUU – Jan. 14 We Need Your Comments](#)

With the current political climate in our nation, many of us find we are involved in more activities than ever before. Because of the large number of requests for promoting both VUU social action activities and non-VUU social action activities, we have put together guidelines for using patio tables, announcements, and getting signatures on petitions for VUU members (friends), VUU organizations and partners, and non-VUU affiliated organizations. On Sunday, Jan. 14, you will have an opportunity to review, discuss and comment on these draft guidelines. **We will meet in the VUU Board Room at 11:45 a.m.- 12:15p.m. on Sunday, Jan.14.** For more information, contact socialaction@vuu.org or talk with Willa Cree. If you cannot attend but want to comment, please email and request a copy of the draft guidelines.

[Paz de Cristo needs YOU](#)

Are you a UU looking for another way to help others who are less fortunate? Make a commitment to help feed the hungry at Paz de Cristo on a second Friday in January and February. January is traditionally a month where we have some problems finding enough people to help, so if you can, please sign up for January. 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 – Donations for January](#)

Canned Mixed Vegetables and Canned Corn

Please support our focus charity, Paz de Cristo, by bringing in a donation of canned mixed vegetables and canned corn. Tops with pull tabs are appreciated if possible. Drop your donation in the collection box located in the foyer of the sanctuary.

Gift cards for groceries and gas are welcome and will continue to be collected throughout the year. They can be placed in the lock box on the wall above the collection box. Fry's gift cards are especially appreciated because they give Paz the flexibility to get either gas or groceries.

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? Do you just love washing sheets!?! I'm sure we can find something for you to do so contact Sue at office@vuu.org We will serve the evening meal to our I-HELP guest on **Monday, Jan. 8**. Click on this link and sign up to bring something and to serve! Look for the link to our meal soon!

I-HELP guests need feminine hygiene items, sunscreen, razors, deodorant and socks. Bring your donations with you on Sunday and leave them in the collection area in the Sanctuary foyer.

UUJAZ Webinars

UUJAZ is hosting a series of webinars for Arizona UUs designed to encourage, support and strengthen us for justice work. Connect from wherever you are to strengthen your justice muscles with UUJAZ. See dates below. To register, go to www.uujaz.org/jst

- January 14, 2018, 4 p.m.
- *Zoom Workshop: Intersectional Organizing II - January 28, 2018, 4pm*
- February 11, 2018, 4 p.m.
- February 25, 2018, 4 p.m.
- March 11, 2018, 4 p.m.
- March 25, 2018, 4 p.m.
- April 8, 2018, 4 p.m.
- *Zoom Workshop: Intersectional Organizing III - April 22, 2018, 4 p.m.*

Community Events of Interest (non-VUU organizations)

Request to Speak Training – Defending Democracy at the State Legislature -

Learn the legislative process and how to have your voice heard at the State Capitol. You will learn how to use the Request to Speak system, the Arizona legislative process, and answering all of your questions about the legislative session. This event is being sponsored by the AZ Advocacy Network Foundation on Jan 18, 2018 at Saguaro Public Library, 2808 N 46th St, Phoenix AZ 85008 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

RSVP: azadvocacy.org/rsvp

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

Thank You

Many thanks to everyone who participated in Adopting a Family - both the one through the Save the Family Foundation and the refugee family. Our community really came together, and the families have lots of gifts and warm thoughts from our community to make this a very happy holiday season for them. Thanks again to all of you for being so generous!

Unveil the Mystery of Service to VUU
Saturday, January 20, 2018
8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. in Rooms 1 & 2
(Breakfast and childcare provided.)

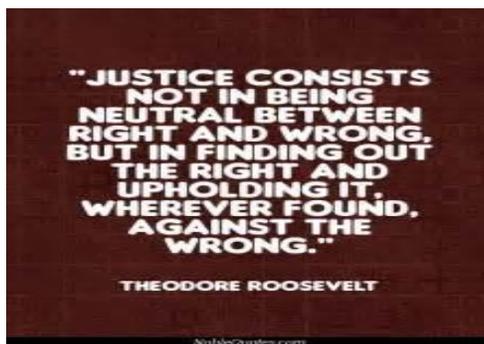
If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader. -- John Quincy Adams.

Our congregation is blessed with many leaders who inspire us all through their service to VUU and the wider community. They include the members we elect to serve on the Board of Trustees, Special Funds, Leadership Development, and as General Assembly Delegates.

Have you ever thought about running for office here at VUU? Have you wondered what your responsibilities and time commitment would be? Are you unsure about how to begin the process? Well, here is your opportunity to ask!

You are cordially invited to join members of the Leadership Development Committee, Board of Trustees, Special Funds, and past General Assembly Delegates for an in-depth look at what motivates us to serve in elected positions here at VUU. *Come hear how serving in office has brought us joy, strengthened our connection to the VUU community, and furthered our spiritual growth.*

We look forward to telling our stories, answering your questions, and helping you on your journey as a leader here at VUU.



Stewardship Update

Your response to VUU's 2018 Operating Campaign and Vision Sunday was amazing. 133 households attended Vision Sunday, and we have received 168 pledges for 2018 as of Christmas day.

85-member households chose to increase their pledge for 2018 and 19 households pledged for this first time. With just 46 households to go, we are nearly done with our fastest and most successful operating campaign in many years, demonstrating your tremendous support for the work that we do at Valley UU, and for our [shared vision](#) for our future.

Happy New Year, and many thanks for all that each of you do for, and contribute to, that vision.

If you have not yet made your pledge, please take a minute (or less) [to do so here](#).

Here's to our future!

DeeAnne McClenahan, Stewardship Chair

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!

VUU Singles

NEW YEAR'S PARTY, DEC. 31, 7:30 p.m.

Ruth has offered to host a New Year's party for the Singles. Just show up with a dish to share and the beverage of your choice. Ruth will have some wine, dishes and cheese. Address is 2340 W Comstock in Chandler, between the 101 and Dobson just off Elliot. You can RSVP to Ruth at 480-663-3450 (home) or 480-620-0507 (cell) or email Ruth at rgraham43@gmail.com. Ruth hopes to see everyone there.

12th night Potluck, Jan 6, 5:00 p.m.

At the home of Gloria Masters, 2227 W. Ironwood Dr., Chandler, 85224. Bring a dish to share and help us celebrate 12th night (any excuse for a party!) RSVP online with a reply all or call Gloria at 716-819-7622

JASS

Jam Acoustic Second Sunday (JASS) happens every second Sunday in the Sanctuary. 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 January 11 @ 6 p.m. for potluck @ Apache Wells Homeowners Association - Community Building Mesa. 2223 N 56th St, Mesa.

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](tel:815-252-2528) for more information.

Wayfarers

Happy HoUUr will be on Friday, January 19. Information about a specific location will be in a future Sunday Bulletin. Contact Jan Waters with questions: 608-201-2207.

VUU WOMEN'S GROUP

The VUU Women's Group will meet next on Sunday, January 28, after the morning service. All VUU women and friends are invited to gather at the front of the sanctuary for a simple potluck lunch and conversation. Our topic of the day will be aspects of "mindfulness" --relaxation techniques, meditation, yoga. some of the ways we can care for ourselves in the midst of our busy lives. Please bring a lunch dish to share, if possible, and enjoy the chance to meet with new and old friends!

For questions or comments, please contact Margaret Stewart at mjs.ontheroad@gmail.com, or 508-662-6348.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY IS JANUARY 21

PACIFIC WESTERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

The four districts of the UUA's Pacific Western Region will gather April 27-29 in Portland, OR for the 2018 Regional Assembly. Speakers include civil rights activist, the Rev. Dr. William Barber; Washington Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, advocate for women's, immigrant, civil, and human rights; and the Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, newly elected UUA president. Programming includes workshops, worship, district meetings, and an optional social justice activity. A day-long Professional Day designed for religious professionals is planned for Friday, April 27, before the start of Regional Assembly. Discount lodging is available at the Portland DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, site of the Regional Assembly. Childcare and youth programming will be available. Registration will open by January 4. Watch the PWR website (www.uua.org/pwr) for full details to be posted soon.



WhaleCoast Alaska 2018

WOW! Four Unitarian Universalist Fellowships in Alaska invite you to our awe-inspiring, 25th annual Alaska tour program.

TOUR #1: National Park Tour, June 9 to 19 -- \$3,135

TOUR #2: All-Alaska Tour, July 6 to 18 -- \$3,843

WHERE: From the coastal waters to the sunny Interior, from wilderness to modern cities. We experience the best of Alaska: Fairbanks, Denali Park, Anchorage, Juneau, Sitka, Seward

SEE:

- Wildlife: whales, seals, bears, moose, caribou, & more.
- Glaciers, islands, fjords, and mountain ranges.
- Native American artists and dancers.
- Alaska's finest museums.
- Spectacular travel by train, plane, and boat.

STAY: Real Alaska! UU homestays, meals, & dinner parties with Alaska UUs who treat you like friends.



Director: Dave Frey, longtime Fairbanks UU
 More information: www.WhaleCoastAK.org
 Email: dfrey@WhaleCoastAK.org
 Telephone: 907-322-4966

Save \$\$\$! - \$100/person discount for group of 8

Hurry! Each tour sells out when 40 guests register

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 & Concerns Neighborhood Contacts

We hope the coming year will be a wonderful one for all of the members and friends at VUU. 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 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.

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

Carl Anderson 480-529-4365
Donna Bennett 480-570-4024

canderaz@cox.net
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
Debbe Simpkins 480-244-6570

bitnermj@cs.com
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
Joel Sannes 480-464-6772
Rebekah Thomas 443-890-5397
Diana Woods 480-835-5621

bettyjbarnes@cox.net
joelsannes@gmail.com
rkendri@hotmail.com
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

Barbara Face 480-961-3223
Jacqui Meriweather 480-491-0546
Jane Murray

barbara.face@gmail.com
jacquelinea.meriweather@gmail.com
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 Faith Formation
Sue Ringler, Congregation Administrator
Joe Martin, Maintenance Technician
Jill Khaleghi, pianist

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Paul Schneider, President
DeeAnne McClenahan, Vice President & Board Rep. to Finance Committee
Karl Hurst-Wicker, Financial Analyst/Treasurer
Musette Steger, Secretary
Maria Dixon
Mary Erickson
Bob Fabre