

## **VUU ELECTIONS ARE COMING**

The VUU Leadership Development Committee is pleased to introduce candidates who will be running for election to the VUU Board of Trustees, the VUU Special Funds Committee and the VUU Leadership Development Committee at the **Annual VUU Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 2, 2019**. We encourage all VUU members to attend the Annual Meeting and vote for the candidates of their choice, as well as for the VUU Budget for the next year. For those who cannot attend the Annual Meeting in person, absentee ballots will be available in mid-May. If you have any questions, or would like to suggest any additional nominees for these offices please contact us at [leadershipdevelopment@vuu.org](mailto:leadershipdevelopment@vuu.org).

Tom Briggs  
Chairperson, VUU Leadership Development Committee

### **Board of Trustees – 4 open positions**



#### **DeeAnne McClenahan**

Incumbent.

I am a life-long Unitarian-Universalist, and have been a member of UU churches in five states, served on the board in two and served as President of the Unitarian Universalist church in Roswell, Georgia before moving to Arizona; for fourteen years I have been a proud member of Valley UU Congregation, serving on Stewardship, Green Sanctuary, Finance, Budget, Special Funds, the Board, and the Audit Committee. I have taught RE, participated in fundraisers such as the auction and cafes, helped to organize the library, worked to create VUU's first photographic membership directory, and help start the chalice circles covenant groups. I raised two young adults from middle school at VUU and am grateful to this congregation that their UU roots and values serve them well as an adult teacher, and attorney/activist. By day I am the Director of Software Delivery for the global leader in multi-family housing, having spent most of my career in professional finance roles. I spent eight of the last ten years on the Tempe Union High School Board, and the last four on the VUU Board, this last year as President.



#### **Joan Bundy**

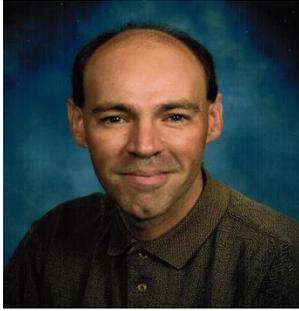
Joan M. Bundy has been a member of Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation since October 2015. She directs its bell choir, the Chalice Ringers. She also sings in its adult vocal choir and has served on its Finance Committee. She grew up in the First United Methodist Church of Audubon, Iowa; her step-grandfather was a Methodist minister. She is a third-generation church bell choir director. Before directing VUU's bell choir she directed one at the United Methodist Church of Casa Grande and still plays in it.

In her working life she is an attorney with a solo private firm, Joan Bundy Law PLC, practicing exclusively in family law and focusing on some of our most vulnerable populations, including women, children, domestic-violence victims, Native Americans, LGBTQ persons and companion animals.

In her spare time, she likes to quilt and do crafts, research family history, sing, give piano lessons, help rescue cats and dogs, and just spend time with her own cat Cheddar, dog Emma and husband Paul.

Paul really brought her to UU, having grown up in the UCCP congregation in the 1960s. His parents really enjoyed the Rev. Raymond G. Manker, VUU's founding minister, who sadly just passed away. Paul and Joan became disenchanted with UMC's continued insistence on not allowing "out" gays and lesbians to serve as ministers and decided to visit VUU. They found UU's focus on everyone's inherent worth and dignity (No. 1 of the seven principles!) to be a refreshing change.

Her grandmother (the minister's wife and bell choir director) is fond of saying, "To whom much is given, much is expected" (Luke 12:48, various versions). She feels it extremely important to give to others of the gifts God has given us and hopes to provide that philosophy in helping lead VUU into the future.



### **Nick Carr**

For several years, there wasn't much that happened at VUU in which I wasn't involved. Head Usher, Worship Associate, hosted pagan services, organized and facilitated BYOT, I was the last chair of the Nominating Committee before it evolved into Leadership Development. I'm currently organizing social suppers and trying to revive the earth-based community in the congregation. I would bring a pragmatic, fiscally cautious, and less politically focused voice to the board.



### **Elizabeth Chain**

Elizabeth Chain is a retired educator, engineer and research scientist who holds a Ph.D. in Optical Sciences from the University of Arizona.

Prior to moving to Phoenix Liz was a member 1986-1991 of the First Dallas Unitarian Church, in charge of organizing monthly potlucks for ~100 church members (called "dinner for eight").

Right after she moved to Phoenix, Liz became active in VUU, 1992-1994; among interests here was meeting weekly with a number of VUU ladies to study the gnostic gospels over the course of a few months, and

she participated in one VUU weekend at Rocky Point; she was forced to stop VUU attendance after her work duties escalated to 60-70 hrs./week.

Liz again became active in VUU a few years ago and became a member in 2015. She taught a genealogy course as a FUUNd event for 4 years. She especially believes in the importance of opportunities for congregation members to get to know one another better.



### **Debra Grande**

Debra was born and raised in Minneapolis, MN. Her family was Catholic and she attended mass regularly up until college. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Stout with a degree in Child Development & Family Life.

In 1990 she decided to make a bold move from Minnesota to Arizona on her own in order to find a good job. She accepted a job with Maricopa County and bought a house in Phoenix. She also had an interest in investing, so she started up her own stock club for women and ran that for a decade. In 1995 she attended and graduated from University of Phoenix with a Masters in Business Administration.

With a new degree she left her job and started pursuing a better career.

Working a temporary job at Intel she met her future husband, David Grande and married him in 1998. Her first son Cody was born in 2000 and her second son Craig was born in 2002.

In 2004 her family joined VUU, where she started out by diving into volunteering and led the WeeUUs for a year. She helped out with Caring & Concerns within her area as well as helping the Faith Formation classrooms, which she did for many years as her boys were growing up. When her boys entered middle school, she then ran MUUGs for four years and ended by taking the group (both kids and adults) on a two-night camping and rafting trip.

In this last year she joined a Chalice Circle where she has found meaningful connections with others. Currently she is on the Capital Planning Committee (CPC) for the new sanctuary building.



**Susan Keen**

Sue Keen has been a member of UU churches here and in Charlotte, NC for the last 7 years. As a UU member, she has been a member of the choir and bell choir, as well as guest pianist. She has put in a lot of kitchen time at UU churches with her daughter, catering dinner for 150 for a regional choir festival, and catering several lunches and functions here at VUU. She was also one of the facilitators for the very first offering of Chalice Circles. Sue has also been active in the wider community, acting as president of HOAs for three terms, accompanying a community chorus, and volunteering as a consumer investigator at a local television station.

“VUU is evolving as a leader in social, environmental, and spiritual venues in exciting and creative ways. I would be honored to be part of the group that helps to transform congregational concerns into vibrant ways to impact these and other venues.”



**Linda Stenholm**

My parents brought me up as first a Methodist and then a Christian Scientist. Later, the matriarch in my family, my sister, became a devout fundamentalist Christian and I learned that the need to believe in "the rightly divided Word" was not a concept that worked for me at all! When I moved to Arizona from Chicago in 1996, I started attending a Methodist church around the corner from my home (St. Matthew United Methodist Church). I put a lot of effort into learning about that community and its teachings. I was a Social Action Coordinator with the United Methodist Women and a

member of the Conference Board of Church and Society, where the more progressive leadership worked to educate ourselves and others about social justice issues across the Valley, the state, the country, and the world.

I also taught all different ages of students in Sunday School there and, more pertinent to my specific interest in being on the VUU Board, I was a member for many years and Chair of the Board of Trustees for several years at St. Matthew. I learned a lot about the budgets and the numerous committees involved in all things St. Matthew.

One of the things I enjoyed the most about being on the Board of Trustees was the opportunity to be directly and immediately involved in maintaining the church campus facilities. We committed to at least one Sunday every month for meetings and routine building oversight but we also coordinated special work days for projects like waxing the floors and painting walls, upgrading the playground and installing modern landscaping and watering systems.

I look forward to being of service to VUU and helping more with special facility projects whether or not I'm ever on our Board.

**Leadership Development Committee – 4 open positions**



**Ken St. John**

Incumbent.

Ken has been a member since 1998, and an active participant at VUU since 1997. During that time he has served on the board, the nominating committee, the RE committee, the finance committee and the Ministerial Search Committee that brought us the Rev. Dr. Andy. He has also taught nearly every level of our religious education program, including the teen's YRUU social groups. Ken is currently active as a choir member,

an OWL facilitator, I-Help volunteer, the Cabaret organizer, and as the usher coordinator for worship services. For a fun time, he has been sneaking onto the campus during weekdays to do garden chores, and to ensure that the sanctuary chairs are reasonably positioned for each Sunday Service. He and his wife Janet met at VUU; their blended family includes 5 awesome children, 4 adorable granddaughters and a pretty cute dog. Ken recently rescinded his offer to serve on the ministerial transition team, which frees up plenty of time to work on the Leadership Council. Plus, he's retired now, giving him an infinite amount of free time available.



**Jodi Cicirello**

Jodi is a transplant from Chicago where she was an active member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Hinsdale. She has since relocated to Arizona and has been a VUU Member for the past two years. At VUU, she has been active in the Womens' Group, UUJAZ, Reproductive Justice and was a Coming of Age mentor.

"I believe the more we get involved, the better our congregation, and world, will become. Leadership Development is part of my

everyday life – Helping others to live their best life possible."



**Willa Cree**

Hi. I'm Willa Cree and I would like to become a member of the Leadership Development Committee. I believe that mentoring new leaders within our congregation is one of the most important things that we can do to ensure the continued growth of our community, and I would like to be part of that. I recently completed a 3-year term as VUU's Social Action Coordinator. With the many wonderful people that I had the opportunity to work with over these 3 years, I encouraged them to take on more responsibility and to learn how to work with the VUU

family. These are valuable skills in building leaders.

I bring years of experience from my "workforce" (I am wonderfully retired now) days where I often had several staff working for me. One of the most rewarding activities as a manager was encouraging and making training available for my staff to move up in their career. However, I also know that working with volunteers can be very different. Now I would like to convert that workplace experience to skills that I can use at VUU, mentoring and working with congregation members who aspire to play a more vital role in our community.

I have much to learn. I look forward to working with the wonderful members of this committee who can also teach and mentor me. Most of us are still in this "leadership" learning process and I would like to encourage the future leaders at VUU while I learn from our congregation members. I hope you will allow me to represent you on the Leadership Development Committee. Thank you for your consideration.



**Susan Lacy**

I was born and raised in Utah in the Episcopal Church and attended a Catholic School for 11 yrs. I sang in both church choirs, was an officer both in the Episcopal Young Churchman group and the Catholic school student body. My journey through all this ended over 40 yrs ago and I chose not to attend ANY organized religion. Upon a friend's suggestion, I sought out the UU here in AZ and feel I have found a community home. I bought several FUUUnd events that first spring

and met many people in those small groups I now call friends. For 2 years, I helped with the scheduling of those FUUUnd events, and now 'host' the monthly Wayfarers gathering. I also attended the leadership presentation over a year ago to learn more about VUU. Professionally, I was a manager and also employee account agent for the home office of a major insurance corporation. After I retired, I was the

Activity Director for a small assisted living community that I still visit when in Washington. I was also a chapter president and board director of the Ice Age Floods Institute, a large group with chapters in 4 states. I now volunteer at an assisted living community in Gilbert twice a week and am my condominium complex HOA president. I am more than a snow bird, living here 9 months of the year to be near family and now friends.

With this background, I believe I would bring an additional perspective to this committee while remembering what made this congregation so special that I was compelled to join.



### **Julie Givans Voller**

Julie Givans Voller has been a member of VUU since 2017, She works in higher education administration and currently serves as the Interim Dean of Enrollment Services at Phoenix College, a part of the Maricopa Community College District. Julie enjoys reading, writing, musicals, and spending time outdoors. She lives in Tempe with her wife Sandra, and their dog Blizzard.

I decided to become a candidate because I love the VUU community and want to use my organizational skills and creativity to serve our mission.

## **Special Funds Committee – 1 open position**



### **Rick Hinrichs**

Incumbent

I am a Professor Emeritus of Kinesiology (the science of human movement) at Arizona State University. I am also a Senior Biomechanics Consultant at Augspurger Komm Engineering, Inc. in Phoenix. I investigate injuries that occur in motor vehicle accidents, falls, water parks, the workplace, and such. I also provide expert testimony in legal cases involving these injuries. My wife, Debbe Simpkins, and I have been members of VUU since April 1988. Before moving to Arizona, we

were members of the UU Fellowship of Columbia (SC) and the Denton (TX) UU Fellowship. At VUU I have served on the Personnel Committee on and off (mostly on) since 1991. I also served either as a committee member or as chair of the Budget Committee continuously from 1993 through 2003, and then again from 2008 through 2012 as part of the larger Finance Committee. I was instrumental in spearheading the move to stop the large deficit budget proposed by the board in 2008 and helped prepare the 5-year financial plan for the church that brought us back to a balanced budget. I also served on the Board of Trustees from 1994 through 1996. I have served as the treasurer for the Special Funds Committee for three years. Other VUU service has included several years on the ad hoc Ministerial Contract Review Committee, the FUUNd (auction) committee, singing with the choir (although not recently), playing in the bell choir, and playing trumpet in various musical groups at church, especially at Cabaret. Overall, I feel my understanding of and commitment to the congregation's financial health will continue to serve me well as a member of the Special Funds Committee.