



VUUPOINT AUGUST 2019



Valley
Unitarian
Universalist
CONGREGATION

Sunday Service

10:30 A.M.

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



Sunday Services 10:30 A.M.

VUU Website <http://www.vuu.org/> VUU Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/ValleyUU/>

Your Sunday Bulletin and Order of Worship are now posted on the website.

Go to vuu.org and click on Sunday Bulletin or Order of Worship at the top of the home page.

August's Theme is Prayer & Meditation

- August 4** *To Whom it May Concern: Prayer for Atheists and Agnostics* Rev. Dr. Andy Burnette
- August 11** *Oh Dear God: Prayer for Religiously Liberal Theist* Rev. Dr. Andy Burnette
- August 18** *Service is our Prayer: Praying is Living* Rev. Dr. Andy Burnette
- August 25** *Different Than You Think: A UUnique Perspective on Prayer and Meditation* Dan Schulte

Upcoming Events at a Glance	
8/02 Singles Game Night	8/18 Journey to Membership
8/04 Worship Design Workshop	FF Snowy Owls Meet
FF Great Grey Owls Parent Orientation	Newsletter Deadline
8/08 EastVUUs Meet	8/20 Adult Choir Rehearsals Begin
8/10 Singles Foreign Movie & Food Night	8/22 EastVUUs Social Night
Women4Women Bag Assemble	8/23 Singles Monthly Dinner
8/11 FF Snowy Owls Parent Orientation	8/25 VUU Women's Group
FF Great Grey Owls Meet	8/30 Labor Day Weekend at SAWUURA
8/15 The Page Turners	9/01 FF Water Fun Day
8/16 Wayfarers Happy HoUUr	
Sundays – Dalai Lama & Friends	

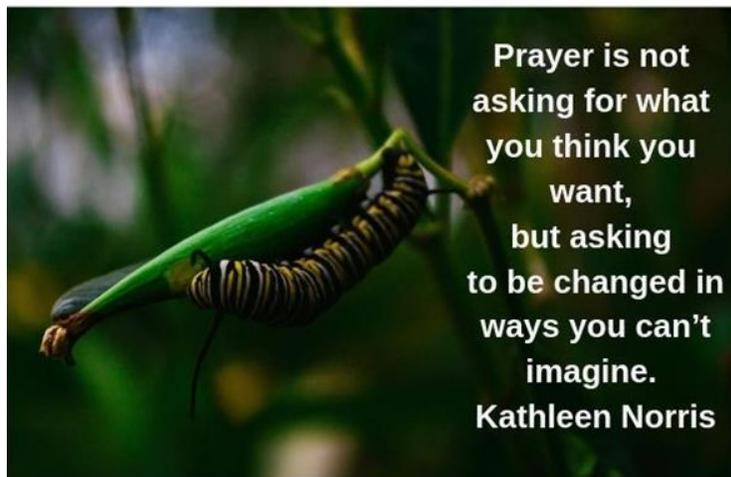


Photo by Bradley Ziffer on Unsplash

Reverend Dr. Andy's New Monthly Series

Interview with a Member of the Congregation



Debbie Dinyes has been a member of VUU since the mid-1970s, when she moved to Tempe at the end of a big adventure. In 1969, Bill and Debbie, both teachers, were living in Dayton, Ohio. The couple spotted an ad in a teaching magazine. Teaching couples were needed in Alaska. With teaching degrees and no children of their own yet, Debbie and Gary decided to go.

The Alaskan bush, Debbie said, “was a total culture shock to me after growing up in the New York City metro area.” The first thing she noticed was that there were no bushes in the bush. “It was just flat tundra and little sticks here and there,” she said. This would be her home for the next four years.

The first of three schools at which Debbie and Bill taught was Nunivak Island located off the coast of. The village of about 350 people was home to a musk ox sanctuary and a herd of reindeer that the villagers used for meat themselves and for sale. Boardwalks connected the few buildings in the village, since the ground was always either frozen or muddy.

Debbie and Bill lived in the housing set aside for the approximately six teachers at the school. “We were the only people who had electricity throughout the house” Debbie said. “Everyone else had small generators. On Saturday morning, laundry day, the generators got going. We could look right out our door and see the ocean.”

There were no roads to speak of in the village, since people traveled mostly by snowmobile and airplane. It wasn't an easy life for the people who called this part of Alaska home, especially prior to the discovery of oil in the state. Since these remote schools were so expensive to operate the Bureau of Indian Affairs ran them. Village schools were K-8 and for high school the students went to school in Anchorage while boarding with families, or to Mont Edgcombe boarding school in Oregon. Today, due in large part to oil money, these schools are under local control and the schools are all K-12.

The school served as much more than a place to learn science and math. “The school was the best place in town to spend your day.” Debbie said. “It had heat and light. It had indoor running water. We never ever had an attendance problem unless somebody was very sick.”

When in 1973 they had their first child, Debbie and Bill moved back to the lower 48, to Tempe. Bill worked as a teacher on the Gila River Reservation while Debbie stayed home with the baby, but she was soon ready for adult company. She turned to the yellow pages to find a Unitarian Universalist congregation and found VUU, then located on River Road in Tempe.

Back then, there were fewer than 100 members in the congregation. The VUU sanctuary was a remodeled home with little space for offices or classrooms. Two ministers came and went until the congregation decided to go without a minister for financial reasons.

In those days, like many UU congregations, VUU had no summer services. Instead, there were hikes and swimming pool parties.

“You know we were small, because we all fit in one house,” Debbie said. Members wanted to grow, but knew they faced an uphill struggle.

“We decided we’re never going to grow here stuck back in that neighborhood,” Debbie said. “That was before you had the Internet, so you had the yellow pages to work with. The building was way too small, and we thought we needed something classier.”

Some members scraped together money and bought a property on Warner Road. They donated it to the congregation, and a sanctuary was built at 1700 West Warner Road. Still today, a massive chalice reminds passers-by that the building used to host a UU congregation.

The Warner Road sanctuary was built on less than a shoestring budget. “That we could build that building still amazes me because we had a little over 100 members at the time,” Debbie said. “I was on the committee representing (religious education), and we talked about what we needed in the kitchen, what we need for the children.”

The kitchen was evidence of the squeaky-tight finances for the construction project. “We designed a kitchen with no drawers, because drawers were too expensive. Talk about a shoestring operation. We started to grow because we were a little more noticeable.”

Debbie has done just about everything a person can do in a congregation. She taught children at VUU for years, even after she took a job teaching in the Kyrene school district in 1983. She worked alongside other members on pro-choice and peace issues in the 70s and 80s. She served as board president and was an integral part of the 2004 move from Warner Road to our current location in Chandler. Until recently, Debbie headed up the facilities team and worked on stewardship campaigns. She still sings in the choir and helps with the congregation’s memorial garden.

She is optimistic about the future of VUU.

“This church has always had a core of people who are interested in keeping the church going,” she said. “They had no axes to grind, they just wanted to work for the good of the congregation. We still have them, and I’m sure we will have more people join them.”

“I think we have a lot of new, very exciting members, and they’re stepping up in various areas and they seem to be sticking around,” Debbie said. “I hope they’re making friends.”



Photo by Amie Spratt on Unsplash

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friends of VUU,

We had an excellent turnout at our VUU Annual Meeting on June 2nd, and I would like to thank everyone who attended. In that meeting the congregation approved the budget for the upcoming year, elected our new board members, reviewed where we are with our Capital Campaign and had questions answered on building our Faith Oasis. I would like to personally welcome Joan Bundy, Debi Grande, Linda Stenholm and Sue Keen (who graciously agreed to fill out the year term for Paul Schneider) to the Board of Trustees. Returning we have Bob Fabre and DeeAnne McClenahan. In our July Board Meeting, we elected the following officers for the new year's board:

- President – Musette Steger
- Vice President – Robert Fabre
- Treasurer/Financial Analyst – DeeAnne McClenahan
- Secretary – Debi Grande
- Board rep to Finance: Bob Fabre
- In addition, Sue Keen, Joan Bundy, and Linda Stenholm took Liaison and/or committee leadership roles

The board also voted in favor of transferring \$16,341 to the Cash Reserves account which will now hold \$60,726 in reserve for potential unknowns and emergencies. As this fund was as low as \$668 for nine months just three years ago, we are pleased to have followed through on our commitment to add not just the \$30,000 we planned over three years, but much more to get us to this record reserves amount that gives VUU more financial stability and credibility as we continue to execute our mission.

Other highlights of the year included increased community outreach, continued new membership, a growing endowment fund, and two newly formed committees CPC (Capitol Planning Committee) and CCC (Capitol Campaign Committee) which are helping us remain mindful of how an improved and more beautiful space can make a powerful difference in our ability to pursue our own spiritual paths and to share VUU's message of love, service, and justice with a wider, more diverse audience. The year ended in a very positive way thanks to the volunteers, staff, and ministers. I would like to especially thank the outgoing board members: Karl Hurst-Wicker, Maria Dixon, Mary Erickson and Paul Schneider. Your work this past year has been vital to get us to this point in our growing and expanding community. And to our outgoing President DeeAnne, a final thanks for your past year as president, for your leadership, role modeling, and vision.

Looking forward, this year's Board will be focusing on getting the new members up to speed and planning our goals during the Board retreat in August. We will also continue spending time on long-range planning with our capital campaign's effort of turning our vision into a bright collective future. As the uncertainty in the wider community continues to expand, I am looking forward to making a positive impact working with Rev. Dr. Andy and the board this year. I am excited for what it will bring.

Warm regards,
Musette Steger
 President - VUU Board of Trustees

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

Faith Formation Ministry August 2019

Did you know that we can recycle USED oral care products?!!

ANY BRAND!

Collection box is on the faith formation table at the back of the sanctuary.



Summer curriculum Dates: June 2 – August 25

- ⊕ **Playroom with Reba, room 6** – Unstructured playtime supervised by our childcare staff.
- ⊕ **Elementary-age children, room 3** – UU Principles from Avatar: The Last Airbender (Nickelodeon 2003-2008). Each lesson will open by having the class watch an episode (or part) of Avatar. The episode will be followed by a brief discussion and an activity or craft.
- ⊕ **Middle & High School youth, rooms 1 & 2** – You the Creator of Justice, edited. Discussions, activities, art & music to explore the idea of Justice on different levels: the world, local community, and family.



Water Fun Day: September 1st. All are invited – wear your swimsuit and LOTS of sunscreen!

Marci Beaudoin, Director of Faith Formation ministry

OUR WHOLE LIVES programs offered this year (see pages 8 & 9)

Great Grey OWLs - for 8th & 9th graders: Mandatory Parents (only) orientation, Sunday, August 4th, 12:30 pm in room 5

Snowy OWLs - for 10th & 11th graders: Mandatory Parents (only) orientation, Sunday, August 11th, 12:30 pm in room 1

Contact Marci, faithform@vuu.org, to pre-register

It is time to register children and youth for the 2019-2020 Faith Formation program year! [Use this link](#)

Classes start Sunday September 8th, 10:30 am. Curricula we are using:

These classes start in the sanctuary with families and are sung out to classrooms after the Time For All Ages. Classes end at 11:45 am, families need to sign children out of their classrooms.

Preschool: Chalice Children, Class meets in room 4
 Kinder/1st gr: Rainbow Seekers, Class meets in room 3
 2nd & 3rd gr: Special Times, Class meets in room 7
 4th & 5th gr: Toolbox of Faith, Class meets in room 8

These classes start in their classrooms. Classes end at 11:45 am, youth do NOT need to be signed out.

Middle School, 6th – 8th gr: Bibleodeon, Class meets in room 2
 High School, 9th – 12th gr: Uncovering Bible Stories, Class meets in room 5

ADULT FAITH FORMATION OFFERED THIS MONTH



The Dalai Lama and Friends Workshop

Facilitated by David Black and Melanie Cloonan-Schulte

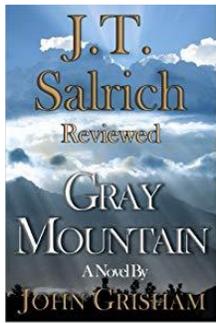
An opportunity to learn from the Dalai Lama and other modern Buddhist teachers is offered each Sunday. The program is offered in 2 parts:

*8:30 - 9 am, room 5: meditation

*9 – 10 am, room 5: Group discussion of presentations on topics such as how to be more compassionate, cultivating our mind, dealing with anger, or how to meditate.

Questions? Just email DavidBlackDLF@gmail.com

Every Sunday - child care is available at 8:30 am in the room #6



The Page Turners Book Club (offsite, evening meeting)

The Page Turners Book Club is open to all members, visitors, and friends of VUU who enjoy reading and discussing a variety of books.

The next meeting will be on **August 15 at 7:15 p.m.** The book is Gray Mountain by John Grisham. This novel is about Samantha, a Wall Street lawyer who is downsized during the recession in 2008. She moves to the small town of Brady, VA. Her new job takes her into the dangerous world of coal mining, where laws are often broken, rules are ignored, regulations are flouted, communities are divided, and the land itself is under attack from Big Coal.

For the meeting address or questions, please contact Johnnie at 480-839-0544, Amy at 480-518-0110, or email: agmonahan@gmail.com.



Photo by Lydia Torrey on Unsplash



OUR WHOLE LIVES for "Great Grey Owls"

Gr. 8-9 Youth

2019-20

We are excited to offer a Unitarian Universalist human sexuality course for students, who will be in **Gr. 8-9** this school year. The course consists of 37½ classroom-hours.

OUR WHOLE LIVES (OWL) is a comprehensive lifespan educational program that helps participants gain the knowledge, values and skills they need to lead sexually healthy, responsible lives. This class will address sensitive topics, such as exploring sexual identity, relationships, intercourse, contraception, health safety and communication, among other topics.

Mandatory Orientation Meeting for Parents Only

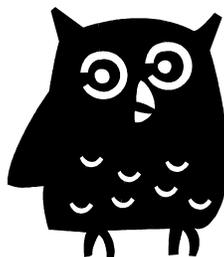
Sunday, August 4 · 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Education Complex Rm. 5

SCHEDULE: August 11, 2019 – May 3, 2020. Full attendance is expected.

All major holidays are taken off, and we do not meet in the month of December.

TO ENROLL: Contact Marci Beaudoin, VUU Dir. of Faith Formation at faithform@vuu.org or 480-899-4249.



Whoo!

Whoo?

YOU!

Please spread the word!

Non-members are welcome to join.

Valley UU Congregation ~ 6400 Del Rio, Chandler, AZ 85226 ~ www.vuu.org



OUR WHOLE LIVES for "Snowy Owls"

Gr. 10-11 Youth

Fall 2019

We are excited to offer a Unitarian Universalist human sexuality course for Senior High students, who will be in **Gr. 10-11** this fall. The course consists of 29-classroom-hours.

OUR WHOLE LIVES (OWL) is a comprehensive lifespan educational program that helps participants gain the knowledge, values and skills they need to lead sexually healthy, responsible lives. This class will address sensitive topics, such as exploring sexual diversity and identity, relationships, contraception and our society's power structures, among others.

Mandatory Orientation Meeting for Parents Only

Sunday, Aug. 11 at 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Education Complex Rm. 1&2

SCHEDULE: August 18 – November 24. Full attendance is expected.

We meet Sundays after service for 2 hrs. All major holidays are taken off.

TO ENROLL: Contact Marci Beaudoin at faithform@vuu.org or 480-899-4249.



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MUSIC & MORE....

WORSHIP DESIGN WORKSHOP

On Sunday August 4 I will be leading a workshop on many of the specific techniques I've been learning about and implementing from the Worship Design Studio started by Dr. Marcia McFee. She is a long-time ritual artist who wrote the book *Think Like a Filmmaker: Sensory-Rich Worship Design for Unforgettable Messages*. We will gather for a potluck lunch around noon in the VUU sanctuary and after we get our food the workshop will start about 12:15 and will end by 2. Anyone interested in creative and meaningful worship are welcome to attend but please RSVP to me at music@vuu.org so I can have enough chairs and handouts. I gave part of this workshop at the Association of UU Music Ministries Conference in Denver last week and it was very well received.

Here is a link to a song I led on my recent trip:

<https://www.facebook.com/jed.levine.7/videos/10157538587763054/>

CHOIRS

The Adult Choir begins rehearsing on Tuesday, August 20th from 7:30 to 9pm in the VUU sanctuary. This choir sings a variety of styles of mostly 4-part music. No auditions are necessary, and some prior choir experience is desirable but not required. A love of singing in groups is highly recommended! The Chalice Ringers, (bell choir) will probably start rehearsing that same evening from 6 to 7:15pm, also in the sanctuary - check the VUU calendar for confirmation as this date gets closer.

CABARET

This annual fun musical and social event will be Saturday evening September 14 in the sanctuary at 7pm. This year it will be an open-mic format in different styles. Please contact Ken St. John ken_stjohn@yahoo.com if you are interested in performing or in helping out at this fun, social and musical event.



JOURNEY TO MEMBERSHIP at VALLEY UU

We have four sessions a year (but sign up for only one) and the next one will be Sunday August 18 from noon to 3:30 in the VUU Sanctuary. If you have been attending VUU for a few weeks or months, are interested in finding out more about Unitarian Universalism and membership at Valley UU, and want to meet other newcomers, then this is for you! Please register by emailing office@vuu.org and let us know if you have any dietary needs for the lunch we will provide, or need babysitting for a child.

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

*Words make you think a thought; Music makes you feel a feeling.
A song makes you feel a thought. – E.Y. Harburg -*

Journey to Membership Sessions 2019-2020

Upcoming Sessions (Pick One):

- **Sunday August 18, 2019**
 - Noon until 3:30 p.m., VUU Sanctuary
- **Sunday November 10, 2019**
 - Noon until 3:30 p.m., VUU Sanctuary
- **Sunday February 9, 2020**
 - Noon until 3:30 p.m., VUU Sanctuary
- **Sunday May 3, 2020**
 - Noon until 3:30 p.m., VUU Sanctuary
- **Sunday August 16, 2020**
 - Noon until 3:30 p.m., VUU Sanctuary

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 Sue in 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

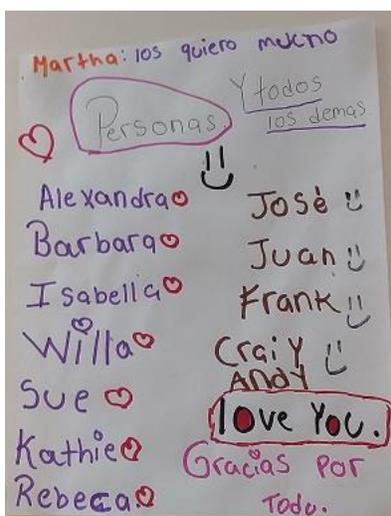


VUU Mission Statement, Part 2: “We cultivate our inclusive community through radical hospitality and nurturing.”

Immigrant Hosting: What Did We Do? What Happened? What’s Next?

VUU’s Immigration Team says *Thank You!* and *You Are Amazing!* to the **100+ volunteers** who stepped up to host migrant and refugee guests in the VUU sanctuary in May and June. You made it possible for our **87 guests** to comfortably pause in their long journeys from home countries to sponsors across the country. You provided food and clothing, diapers and toys, showers and toiletries, traveling snacks, car seats, and transportation to the bus station and airport. Most important of all, your smiles and conversation and one-to-one warm human contact said, “You are welcome here. We are glad to assist you along your way.”

For their safety and ours, we never post pictures of our guests, but some takeaways include: “She called from her sister’s home in Oakland! She made it there safely!” “She kept asking for a toothbrush, just a toothbrush. You should have seen her face light up when I was able to give her one.” “I’m still wearing the friendship bracelet she made while we were chatting at the craft table.” “People were SO grateful to finally be able to take a shower and change into clean clothes.” “He got off the phone and broke into tears. He had not talked to his brother in more than a year.”



A ‘thank you’ from Marta one of the children we hosted in May

Why did we not host in July—and probably won't in August? There has been a significant drop in the number of travelers being dropped off in Phoenix. This is often the case in the hot summer months and is probably also a result of new / fluctuating administration policies being established (and being challenged in court).

Based on the strong show of support from the VUU Congregation, we are confident we can mobilize quickly should the need arise again.



In addition, The International Rescue Committee (IRC), with the support of many Valley organizations including VUU, has just opened a new Welcome Center that will ease the need for hosting at area churches. The Center will eventually have the capacity to help 250+ migrants as they travel from detention through Phoenix to their ICE approved sponsors around the U.S. Most are here for no longer than three days—and center has ample room for beds,

dining, childcare, and all the support needed to arrange bus and air transportation and to provide social and legal services. VUU has donated our shower trailer to the Welcome Center (IRC could not get a certificate of occupancy without it), and several people on our Immigration Team have helped get the center ready to open. Here are a couple links for more info about the Welcome Center:

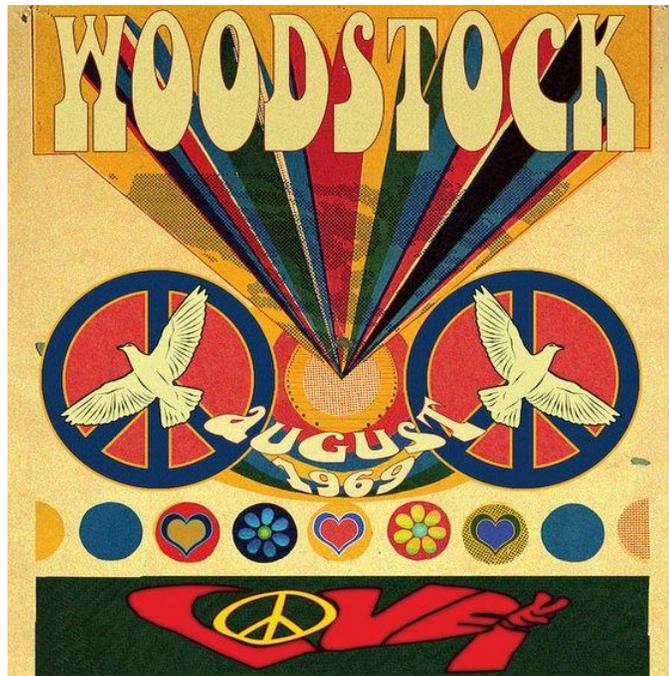
<http://www.phoenixnewtimes.com/news/phoenix-welcome-center-opens-for-asylum-seeking-families-11332705>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FKy7ezxM7JA&fbclid=IwAR0NKLAS8MAUkSgyyfdhdF6CFHVHCTPCopj5m5_k1yNt-0kJML-fmuk5zwo

You know, of course, that the work for justice never ends! We know you want to help. The Immigration Team is working to arrange for training for congregation members who want to continue working with migrants, most likely at the new Welcome Center. We will be meeting soon with Rev. Andy to decide on next steps. Watch this space and the VUU website and Happenings emails for ways you can become or stay involved. Thank you!

~ Barb Quijada on behalf of the VUU Immigration Team

SPECIAL EVENTS



The 50th Anniversary of Woodstock is in August.

It was a call to peace, community, music but mostly
it was a call to love - to be love, to know love, to live love.

And this sounds a LOT like UU's. And it especially sounds a LOT like all of you who serve at VUU - **YOU** - who show up to serve at Paz de Cristo and I-HELP and to welcome our refugee brothers and sisters; **YOU** - who volunteer your time on all the committees and boards that make VUU vital; **YOU** - who offer childcare, teach and walk with our young people and even those not so young; and **YOU** - who lead ministries and social groups.

We will be thanking you. On Saturday, August 17, 5 PM - 8 PM join your grateful VUU staff in the Sanctuary for music, dancing, eating and FUN - as we thank you for all you do at VUU and in the world! Think Woodstock...we invite you to dress accordingly and be your best groovy self! All are welcome. Family friendly.

UUJAZ ISSUES +
ACTION DAY

OCTOBER
26
2019

Tickets go on sale in August
at uujaz.org

SAVE
THE
DATE

"UUJAZ's Issues + Action Day will combine workshops full of justice partners leading us in actions, incredible food and time for fellowship, inspiring music and speakers, and a surprise evening event! Join us at the UU Church of Surprise Saturday, October 26th."

More details to come in August... mark your calendars, you won't want to miss it!

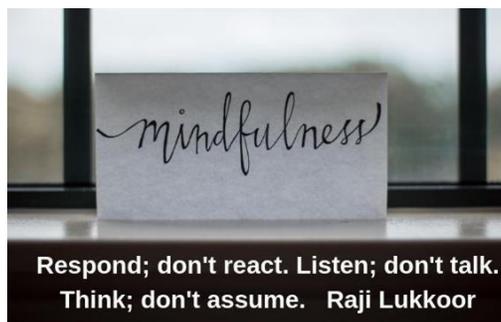
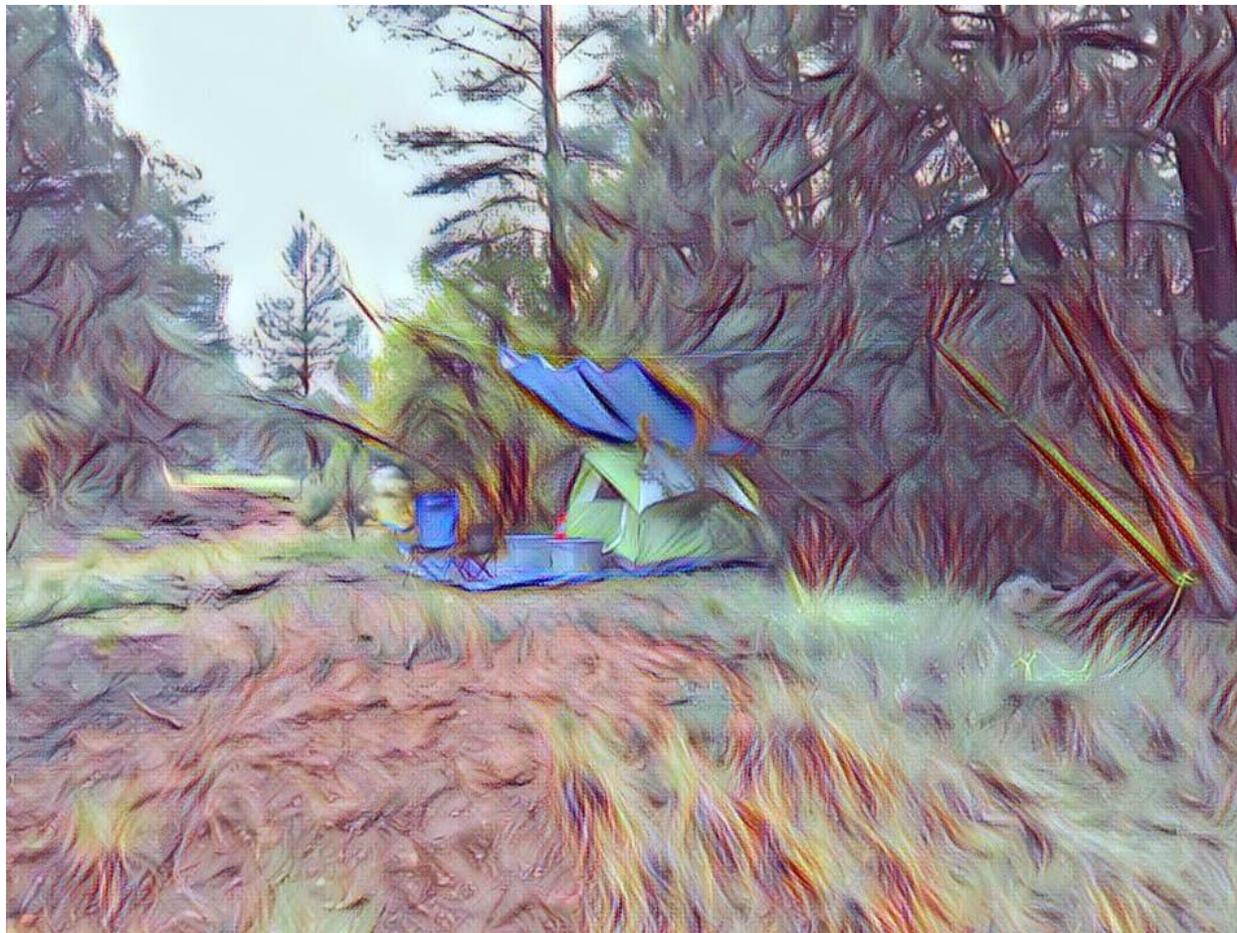


Photo by Lesly Juarez on Unsplash

2019 Labor Day Weekend at SAWUURA

Friday – Monday, August 30th – September 2nd, 2019



You are invited to tent camp, share meals & kitchen duties, activities and worship. Relax and deepen your spiritual connection with nature, play, hike, bird/star watch, sing & singe s'mores around the campfire.

Fees are \$45 for adults and \$25 for children under 16 (or \$35 & \$20 for members).

Important: SAWUURA is 2 miles down a rough dirt road & our latrine are pit toilets.

Deadline to register is Monday, August 26th.

[Click here to reserve your space today](#)

SAWUURA Contacts

Eb Eberlein, ebaztrails@gmail.com

Jan Hatunen, janhatunen@gmail.com

Curtiss Seale, 520-982-3984 curtissimo@mac.com

HIGHLIGHTED GATHERING

(All regular gatherings can be found at the end of the newsletter please check them out)
Do You live on the east side of town? Well the EastVUUs may be for you!



AUGUST 8 - 6:00 - 8:30pm

CLICK LINK TO OUR FACEBOOK PAGE: Any member can post and comment!! Join it now to see our current & future activities!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/EastVUUs/>

POTLUCK: Bring a dish to pass and own tableware

PROGRAM: Rev Dr Andy Burnette will join us for our dinner and meeting to follow. He will discuss UUA and the wider UU faith. Question and answer period will follow.

SOCIAL ACTION: Sharon will update our group to the ever-changing Immigration landscape locally. As well, her collaboration with other state UU Justice Networks to help set up a National Immigration Transit Assistance with UUs to augment or set up Depot volunteers along the Greyhound Bus routes.

As able to bring (any amount,) an updated listing for travel food donations:

Apple Sauce & fruit cups

Tuna & Chicken Salad in box with crackers

SOCIAL SUN NIGHT: August 22 - Dinner at the Painted Mountain Golf Resort Restaurant, 6210 E. McKellips Rd., Mesa, Az at 6pm. During and after dinner we can enjoy the Karaoke and dancing. Reservations may be made by calling or texting Barbara Peters 309-215-7203 or emailing at Bapeters56@gmail.com. Please let us know if you are coming or need to cancel for a courtesy to the restaurant.

The EastVUU group meets at the Apache Wells Community Center (Maricopa Room), 2223 N 56th, Mesa on the second Thursday evening each month. For more information, contact Margaret Stewart at mjs.ontheroad@gmail.com.



Opportunity to help Women4Women Tempe

We've partnered with Women4Women Tempe to help provide bags containing feminine hygiene products to homeless and low-income women. Help these women in our community by making sure these items are available to them, no matter their economic status. <https://www.women4womentempe.org/>

Let's gather together (women and men are both welcome) to assemble bags from **9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on Saturday August 10th** in the Board and Conference rooms in the office building

There are several ways to help:

1. Come and help make the bags on the 10th
2. Donate items to fill the bags – tampons and individually wrapped feminine wipes are especially needed
- 3. Donate money to purchase the above items. This is the best way to donate!**

Lauree Perry will cheerfully accept your donations; either monies or products. Please look for her in the Sanctuary on Sundays. Beverages and light snacks will be provided. This is a fun, low-key way to get to know each other, and do something helpful for our larger community.

For more info contact Lauree (lperry98@earthlink.net)

VUU COMMUNITY

Our congregational vision for the Capital Campaign is to raise funds for capital improvements to support four main goals:

- Family friendly environment
- More meeting space
- Unifying outcome
- Support VUU's mission

Together we are making this vision reality. The early portion of the campaign will continue over the rest of the summer.

The Capital Campaign Committee is thrilled to report that, after an early effort, **pledges as of July 21 exceed \$1 million**. We are very encouraged by this progress and optimistic about reaching our campaign target of \$2.5 million.

Starting October 1, the Capital Campaign will merge with the Annual Stewardship Campaign to become a Combined Campaign. You will notice a difference this year. Most of our congregants will be contacted to schedule a personal visit during October. Your Steward will spend some time visiting with you and then will ask you to **continue (or even increase!) your annual operating pledge**. After you have filled out the Operating Campaign pledge card, there will be time to discuss our plans for building a new Sanctuary and improving the existing structure. This will be your opportunity to make a second pledge—a **three-year commitment to separately support our Capital Campaign**.

How can you help make all this a success?

In the next few months, **additional stewards** for the Combined Campaign will be recruited and trained. Our current stewards can testify that making stewarding visits is rewarding and even fun! Our VUU professional fundraiser, Chris Sar, will present another set of **training sessions on Sept. 8 and 15th, one from 8:30 to 10:15, and one from noon to 1:45, on both days**. We invite all current stewards to participate, and we will need many additional new stewards. If you are interested in volunteering as a steward, please email Linda Horton at lindahorto@cs.com.

If your talents are along the lines of events organizing, we need help with our **September 29 Kickoff Event**. This will be a “picnic” held (indoors and/or outdoors) immediately after the service. We have a budget for purchasing food, making the rest of the planning a fairly workable volunteer contribution. Please contact Linda Horton at lindahorto@cs.com if you can help.



VUU SOCIAL ACTION MINISTRYPromoting Social, Economic and Environmental Justice

Paz de Cristo August Donation of the
Month- Ramen Noodles and Protein
Bars



Please support our focus charity, Paz de Cristo, by bringing in a donation of **Ramen Noodles and Protein Bars** during the month of August. Drop your donation in the container in the foyer of the sanctuary. Thanks for your support!

Paz de Cristo needs YOU

Are you 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 of the month. 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

Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program

Through our work with the Chandler I-HELP program, VUU provides dinner and overnight shelter for 20-25 individuals three – four nights a month. I-HELP questions? Contact Sue office@vuu.org

Arizona Legislative Alert - Keep up with the latest Legislative news

Want to keep up on what's happening to social justice legislation in Arizona? Sign up for your own copy of the Arizona Legislative Alert by emailing legislativeadvocacy@vuu.org. The Arizona Legislative Alert is an email newsletter covering social justice and public policy issues in Arizona edited by Anne Schneider.

Put Your Paper and Cardboard Recyclables to Good Use

The woodworking club of the Ahwatukee Recreation Center collects recyclable paper and cardboard in 4 large dumpsters. When the dumpsters are full, the contents are sold to a recycling company. The money obtained from the sale is used to purchase good wood from which club members produce wooden toys for the area's children's hospitals.



On the third Sunday of every month (August 18), **Sue Keen** will accept donations of recyclable paper and cardboard from the congregation. She will deposit all donations in the dumpsters. If you're interested in helping, save your paper and cardboard and give them to Sue on third Sundays!

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 socialaction@vuu.org

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER IS
AUGUST 18**

MISSING LIBRARY BOOKS

Do you have a stack of books you have been meaning to read? If so, please check to see if any of them belong to the VUU library. There will be a white label on the spine and a card pocket inside with "Please return to VUU Library" on it. We are updating the catalog and would appreciate your help. If you have a VUU book, please return it to the shelf market "Return Books Here." This shelf is on the small bookcase just to the left as you enter the library. **DO NOT PUT IT ON LIBRARY SHELF.** If you have a book you are still reading, please send a text to Johnnie Godfrey at 480-231-8381 or an e-mail at johnniegirl85218@gmail.com. Thank you very much.

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 August 2019 are:

10 to 19 Years:

Melanie Cloonan & Dan Schulte

Laura England

Jim & Linda Horton

DeeAnne McClenahan

20 to 29 Years:

Beverly McCormick

Lauree & Phil Perry

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

**WOMEN'S GROUP MEETING:**

Sunday, August 25, 2019 after the service, approximately 11:45, in the kitchen and sanctuary.

If you would like to get to know more women in our congregation, this is the group for you. All women are welcome. We enjoy visiting with one another as we share a light potluck lunch. Afterwards, we share our experiences about a particular subject.

Since it is August, we think talking about how we survive summers in the desert will be an interesting topic. We are not talking about leaving the Valley for cooler climates because a surprising number of us stay in the Valley for at least a portion of the summer. It would also be interesting to hear from those of us who lived in the desert when we were younger.

Please bring a dish to share, but if you haven't brought one, please stay. We will have plenty of food.

Contacts: Margaret Stewart mjs.ontheroad@gmail.com, Johnnie Godfrey 480-231-8381
johnniegirl85218@gmail.com.



WAYFARERS - Happy HoUUr

Friday, August 16, 2019, 4:30 p.m., **Blue 32 Sports Grill**, 4845 S. Arizona Ave, Chandler, 480-284-6496.

Join us at one of Jim and Nancy's favorite places! A lovely Family Sports Bar with happy hour appetizers ranging from 1/2 order wings for \$6 to \$8 Calamari, with onion rings, bruschetta, loaded fries and more, in between! \$3.75 domestic drafts to \$7.25 specialty martinis. How bad can it be? And dinners from burgers to steaks and seafood. Its located on the east side of Arizona Ave and just N of Chandler Heights Blvd. Heading south, turn left mid-block at the Dairy Queen, and Blue 32 is on the left. Parking all around it. If you'd like to join us, contact Susan Lacy at lacynoe@yahoo.com by **Wednesday evening, Aug. 14**. RSVPs will be under VUU. The more the merrier, but remember, it's only fair there be seating for all who DO RSVP rather than for those who just show up. All are welcome but let me know even that day if you aren't sure before then. Then seating and staffing will be appropriate. Wayfarers are "travelers" who meet at different locations each month throughout the valley. Anyone is welcome to join us. Just let me know. Several new people have added to our company lately. We look forward to seeing YOU!



VUU SINGLES EVENTS

Not signed up to receive VUU Singles event emails? Contact Claudette by phone, text or call at 973-768-6047 or email, claudettewassil@hotmail.com and she'll get you on the list.



Friday, August 2, 6:15 pm: Game Night at Bob and Raul's (7392 S. Hazelton Lane, Tempe—near NE corner of Elliot and McClintock)

What could be more fun than a night of games? Dominoes, Apples to Apples, card games, or anything your heart desires, just bring it along. We'll all bring substantial "snacks" to share and make a slow dinner out of them. Water, juice, and coffee will be provided. Feel free to bring alternate drinks. We need to keep a count of how many are coming so we know if any extra tables and chairs are needed. RSVP by text, call, or email to Raul at rblanco1001@gmail.com, 561-901-9277. For last minute directions, contact Raul.



Saturday, August 10, 6:15 pm: Japanese Movie and Food Night at Renee's (4761 E. Pawnee CIR, Phoenix/Ahwatukee)

In the comedy film, ***Kamikaze Girls***, we meet Momoko, a self-absorbed dreamer who fantasizes about fleeing her rural Japanese home and living life in 18th century Versailles. When she unexpectedly meets the rebellious Ichigo, a rough-and-tumble biker, the two misfits form a unique friendship, and together nothing can stop them.

Please bring a Japanese-inspired dish to share, and we will enjoy a nice potluck dinner together before watching the movie. RSVP to Claudette at 973-768-6047 (texts preferred) or email to claudettewassil@hotmail.com.



Friday, August 23, 6:15 pm: Singles Monthly Dinner at Va Bene Italian Restaurant (4647 E Chandler Blvd, Phoenix, 85048, near SW corner Chandler Blvd & 48th St)

Join us at this family-owned Italian restaurant recommended by many of our group members for some great food and conversation. Here, Happy Hour lasts until 7PM, so enjoy a beverage or appetizer while you check out the menu. RSVP to Claudette at 973-768-6047 (texts preferred) or email to claudettewassil@hotmail.com.



It is with much sadness that we share with you the death of Lara Garrabrant, wife of Byon, mother of Scott, Timmy, Lexi and Blue, sister of Cindy Grigory, daughter of Suzy Distaso. She passed on July 23rd after a long and valiant fight with cancer. No Service is planned.



Caring & Concerns Neighborhood Contacts

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

If there's a situation coming up you'll need help with, or you have a joy to share, contact your Neighborhood Contact. We're ready to be of assistance.

Your Neighborhood Contacts are:

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

Carl Anderson	480-529-4365	canderaz@cox.net
Donna Bennett	480-570-4024	donnaben22@gmail.com

Phoenix, Scottsdale, Glendale, North Tempe- Zips: 85006, 85008, 85014, 85020, 85021, 85022, 85029, 85034, 85037, 85042, 85066, 85250, 85251, 85257, 85268, 85302, 85339, 85274, 85281, 85282, 85285

Lauree Perry	480-839-9296	lperry98@earthlink.net
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Tempe South - Zips: 85283, 85284

DiAnna Farmer	480-413-0293	dianna_farmer@hotmail.com
Sabena Norman	904-307-6996	sabena.norman@gmail.com

Mesa West - Zips: 85201, 85202, 85210

Mary Jo Bitner	480-831-5518	
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

Joel Sannes	480-464-6772	joelsannes@gmail.com
Rebekah Thomas	443-890-5387	rkendri@hotmail.com

Gilbert, including Higley - Zips: 85212, 85233, 85234, 85236, 85295, 85296, 85297, 85298

Neighborhood Contacts Needed!
 Madeline Kasian 480-349-3080 maddie628@gmail.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	barbara_face@qwest.net
Nancy Wittenberg	480-283-4725	nancy.wittenberg@gmail.com

(zips 85225 and 85224)

***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

*The Reverend Doctor Andy Burnette, Senior Minister
The Reverend Kellie Walker, Minister of Music
Marcie Beaudoin, Director of Faith Formation
Sue Ringler, Congregation Administrator
Hayley Wynne, Faith Formation Assistant
Joe Martin, Maintenance Technician
David Berry, pianist*

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