



VUUPOINT

March 2020



Valley  
Unitarian  
Universalist  
CONGREGATION

*Sunday Service*

*10:30 A.M.*

6400 W. Del Rio Street  
Chandler, AZ 85226  
480-899-4249  
[office@vuu.org](mailto: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 is now posted on the website.*

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

### *March's Theme is Forgiveness*

**March 1 *Forgiving Others***

**Rev. Dr. Andy Burnette**

**March 8 *A Spiritual Practice of Justice Work***

**Presented by Janine Gelsinger**

As Unitarian Universalists, we see our justice work as living out our values into the world. We covenant that "service is our prayer." What might it look like to create a Spiritual Practice of justice work?

Meet Janine Gelsinger, the new Executive Director of UUJAZ (Unitarian Universalist Justice Arizona Network). As she shares about her life and the path that led her to this role, and builds relationships in our congregation, she'll invite us to consider our relationship with social justice activism, as well as spiritual practice, and suggest a way to have the two meet in a daily ritual.

**March 15 *Forgiving the Deplorable***

**Led by Adam Romney**

A conception of what Jesus' role can be in the context of modern liberal religion

**March 22 *We'll Build a World: Forgiveness at a Societal Level***

**Rev. Dr. Andy Burnette**

**March 29 Multigenerational Service**

**Led by Melanie Cloonan-Schulte**

### Upcoming Events at a Glance

3/01 The Story of God	3/15 Viva La Verde – documentary
3/02 An Indigenous Peoples History	Newsletter Deadline
3/05 Unity Initiative	The Story of God
Spirit of Life Reading Circle	Singles to Musical Instrument Museum
3/08 Souls to the Polls	Paper/Cardboard Recyclables
Collect Stories not Stuff	3/19 The Page Turners
3/12 EastVUUs "We the People"	3/20 Wayfarers Happy HoUUr
3/14 Singles Game Night	3/22 7 <sup>th</sup> Principle Discussions
	3/26 EastVUUs Social Night
	3/27 Singles Monthly Dinner

#### **Sundays**

Dalai Lama & Friends

#### **Tuesdays**

Ancient Chanting

#### **Wednesdays**

One\*n\*Ten

## “A Moment with the Minister”



*Forgiveness, this month's congregational theme, is a difficult topic. It's so complex that ancient Taoist masters and leaders in other religions used parables and stories to address the topic, since they draw in both the heart and the head. This month, I offer you one of those ancient Taoist stories, The Sack of Potatoes, as translated on the Prana World website at <http://pranaworld.net/the-tao-of-forgiveness/>.*

One day, a sage gave his disciple an empty sack and a basket of potatoes and asked the disciple to write the name of people with whom he still feels angry. “Think of all the people who have done or said something against you in the recent past, especially those you cannot forgive. Take one potato as a representation of each one of them and put it in the sack.”

The disciple came up with a few names, and soon after his sack was heavy with potatoes.

“Carry the sack with you wherever you go for seven days,” said the sage. “Then we shall meet again.”

At first, the disciple thought nothing of it and carrying the sack was not particularly difficult. After some time however, it became more of a burden. It sometimes even got in his way, and it seemed to require more effort to carry as time went on; even though its weight remained the same.

After a few days, the sack began to smell; the carved potatoes gave off a ripe odor. Not only were they increasingly inconvenient to carry around, they were also becoming rather unpleasant.

Finally, the week was over, and the disciple went to the sage. “Any thoughts about all this?” the sage asked.

“Yes, Master,” the disciple replied. “When we are unable to forgive others, we carry negative feelings with us everywhere, much like these potatoes. That negativity becomes a burden to us and, after a while, it festers.”

“Yes, that is exactly what happens when one holds a grudge. So, how can we lighten the load?”

“We must strive to forgive.”

“Forgiving someone is the equivalent of removing the corresponding potato from the sack. How many of your transgressors are you able to forgive?”

“I’ve thought about it quite a bit, Master,” the disciple said. “It required much effort, but I have decided to forgive all of them.”

“Very well, we can remove all the potatoes. Were there any more people who transgressed against you this last week?”

The disciple thought for a while and realized there were. Then he panicked when he knew his empty sack was about to get filled up again.

“Master,” he asked, “if we continue like this, wouldn’t there always be potatoes in the sack week after week?”

“Yes, as long as people speak or act against you in some way, you will always have potatoes.”

“But Master, we can never control what others do. So what good is the Tao in this case?”

“We’re not at the realm of the Tao yet. Everything we have talked about so far is the conventional approach to forgiveness. It is the same thing that many philosophies and most religions preach – we must constantly strive to forgive, for it is an important virtue. This is not the Tao because there is no striving in the Tao.”

“Then what is the Tao, Master?”

"You can figure it out. If the potatoes are unpleasant feelings, then what is the sack?"

"The sack is the case that allows me to hold on to the negativity. It is something within us that makes us dwell on feeling offended.... Ah, it is my inflated sense of self-importance."

"And what will happen if you let go of it?"

"Then... the things that people do or say against me no longer seem like such a major issue."

"In that case, you won't have any names to inscribe on potatoes. That means no more weight to carry around, and no more bad smells. The Tao of forgiveness is the conscious decision not just to remove some potatoes... but to relinquish the entire sack."

With love,  
Rev. Andy



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



***It is with broken hearts that we inform you of the death of Connie Simpkins, VUU Member and Debbe Simpkins' mother. Connie died on February 20. We had just seen her at the Service a few weeks before. We'll always remember her sweet smile. We will let you know when the Memorial Service is scheduled.***

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

IN SPRING....

While the rest of the Valley's thoughts turn to those of baseball's spring training in February, the thoughts of the VUU Board of Trustees, the Finance Committee, and many others turn to budgets. As Anne Schneider so beautifully presented at the February 9 special meeting, two budgets are compiled. The base budget is basically last year's budget with no changes. Budget A contains any changes generated by a combination of budget priorities from Rev. Andy, the Board, and all the other programs and committees. At the same time, a tally is made of actual pledges, estimated future pledges for the year, and other possible contributions. And that total is compared to the base budget and Budget A. Right now, both versions of the budget are being compiled and compared to the probable total income of VUU. And, just as you do some adding and subtracting from your personal budget if the income and expenses do not at least meet, so too the income and expenses of VUU are reconciled. And, we are extremely fortunate at VUU to be able to tap into the extraordinary financial talents of the Finance Committee, its chair, David Sheh, the Board's financial analyst DeeAnne McClenahan, and Board liaison to the Finance Committee, Bob Fabre. Stay tuned for further news and updates.

On February 9, a special Congregational Meeting was held. At that meeting, a unanimous vote passed the following changes in VUU's by-laws. The changes are in **red**.

### Article VI Board of Trustees Section.VI.02 Term

The maximum number of consecutive full **terms** a person can serve on the Board of Trustees is **three (3)**. After a total of **three (3)** consecutive **full terms** on the Board, there must be an interval of at least **two (2) years** until a member may again serve on the Board of Trustees.

### Article X. Committees Section.X.02. Leadership Development Committee

**After a total of two (2) consecutive full terms on the Committee, there must be an interval of at least two (2) years until a member may again serve on the Leadership Development Committee.**

### Special Funds Charter II. Composition.

**After a total of three (3) consecutive full terms on the Special Funds Committee, there must be an interval of at least three (3) years until a member may again serve on the Special Funds Committee.**

Also, at the February meeting, Linda Horton announced the capital campaign total of \$1.2 million. Barbara Quijada then told the congregation that Wendell Burnett Associates (WBA), architects, wants to continue to work with the congregation on its campus vision. WBA will prepare some options, one using the \$1.2 M, one using about \$1.5M, and one using more than \$1.5M. These options will be presented to the congregation at the meeting on May 17, with a vote to follow at the annual meeting. VUU is also very fortunate that people like Linda Horton and Capital Campaign Committee and both Barbara Quijada and Jim Horton, along with the rest of the Capital Planning Committee have volunteered their time, talent, and influence to transform our campus.

Susan Keen, Ph.D.  
Acting President



## Faith Formation Ministry March 2020

Meet our new Lead Childcare provider:

### Marie-Catherine (Marie) Smith

Meet Marie-Catherine (Marie) Smith, the new lead nursery caretaker! She has been attending VUU since 2014 and is so excited to be a part of the faith formation team- again, she was an assistant in the preschool class here at VUU when she was in high school! Marie has worked with children since she was 15, ranging from infants to 4th graders. She is currently pursuing a degree in Early Childhood Education. We're excited to have her here, and if you see her, be sure to say hi!



**Great news:** We now have childcare EVERY Sunday BEFORE and AFTER worship service so adults can attend faith formation programs. All ages of children are welcome, check them into the childcare room (#6) and they can play until you are done with your program. Feel free to bring the kids lunch or a snack.

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION PROGRAMMING

### New Programs

#### “ProFuture Faith: The Prodigal Species Comes Home”

Rev. Andy will be facilitating an eight-session curriculum that explores the link between faith and environmental preservation. Program will include readings, guided discussions & video presentations.

Thursdays: April 2 & 30, May 7 & 21, June 4 & 25, and July 2 & 16.

6:30 – 8:00 PM, in the VUU sanctuary.

Featuring eco-theologian, author, and TEDx speaker, Rev. Michael Dowd, ProFuture Faith is a dynamic course that bridges the gap between head and heart, science and faith.

“Religion AND science are essential to the human endeavor.” Re. Michael Dowd

“...weaves together science, inspiration, and sustainability in a visually stunning and conversation-generating way. His (Dowd) prophetic call for intergenerational justice will appeal to humanists and spiritual members alike.” Rev. Marlin Lavanhar, Senior Minister at All Souls Unitarian Church in Tulsa.

“Brilliantly identifying God as reality, he (Dowd) clarifies that ecology is indeed at the heart of theology” Rev. Alan Taylor, Senior Minister of Unity Temple UU Congregation, Oak Park, IL

Check out the trailer [here](#)

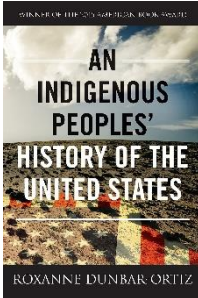
Participants will be guided on a journey that accepts what is inevitable, avoids what is futile, and be inspired to attend to what is urgent. Come home to reality. Embrace a ProFuture Faith!

Pre-register: [adultfaithform@vuu.org](mailto:adultfaithform@vuu.org) Check out the trailer [here](#)



## The 2019-20 UUA Common Read (weeknight program)

### An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States



**Monday evenings March 2nd, and April 6th at 7 p.m. in the VUU Board room.** Seating is limited so please contact Jayne Burgess to reserve your spot. 480-940-8877 or [Jayne@JayneBurgess.com](mailto:Jayne@JayneBurgess.com).

Today there are more than 500 federally recognized indigenous nations comprising almost 3 million people, descendants of the 15 million native people who once inhabited this land. The centuries-long genocidal regime has largely been omitted from history. This book covers more than 400 hundred years of policies that seized their lands and went about eliminating the peoples and helps us look at our history from a different perspective.

### Ancient Chanting from Sacred Traditions

**Tuesday evenings 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm, in Room 5.**

**Led by Stephen Parsons**

Stephen will lead a series of chants (vocal prayers) from ancient India. Each chant is followed by a short period of silence. Typically, these chants, repeating the names of God, are performed in Sanskrit with a particular rhythm and melody. We make it easy by providing printed words and a musical sound tract for added richness.

Because of the spread of meditation and yoga, people in many parts of the world practice these sacred songs. Performance artists like Krishna Das and Deva Premal have helped popularize this special sound.

If you enjoy singing and appreciate sacred tradition, you are welcome to join us.

### The Story of God: Looking at the building blocks of faiths around the world

Led by Sue Keen, materials needed: notebook and pen/pencil

**March 1 & 15, 8:45 am – 10:15 am, Conference Room** Participants will watch episodes (whole or partial depending on the episode) of The Story of God with Morgan Freeman. Participants will record & discuss how the episode applies to their own beliefs and practices.

## Continuing Adult Faith Formation Programs

### Spirit of Life Reading Circle

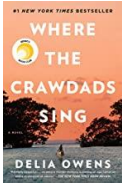


**1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month, March 5 this month, in Rooms 1 and 2, from 7:00 until 8:30.**

**Led by Mary Rothchild, Rebecca Riggs, & Anne Schneider**

A monthly, ongoing group which will read and discuss books, printed sermons, poetry and articles that deal with spiritual and theological issues and ideas that matter to Unitarian Universalists. It is open to anyone who is excited to discuss readings fundamental to Unitarian Universalism.

To sign up, please email [maryloganrothschild@gmail.com](mailto:maryloganrothschild@gmail.com) or [anne.schneider1941@gmail.com](mailto:anne.schneider1941@gmail.com). We hope you will join us!



## **The Page Turners Book Club (offsite, evening meeting)**

We have some interesting books selected to read in 2020. Come join us when the book is of interest to you and you would like to discuss it with others. We even have yummy snacks. A sneak peek at the reading listing for the next few months of 2020:

- **March 19 – Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens**
- April 16 – The Paris Wife by Paula McLain
- May 21 – The Club DuMas by Aurtos Perez-Reverte

Where the Crawdad's Sing is at once an exquisite ode to the natural world, a heartbreaking coming-of-age story, and a surprising tale of possible murder.

We will meet on March 19, 2020 at 7:15 pm at the home of Johnnie Godfrey in Tempe. For the meeting address or questions, please contact Johnnie at 480-839-0544, Amy at 480-518-0110, or email: [agmonahan@gmail.com](mailto:agmonahan@gmail.com).



## **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](mailto:DavidBlackDLF@gmail.com)

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

## **COLLECT STORIES, NOT STUFF Exploring Minimalism as a spiritual practice**

Led by DeeAnne McClenahan, **March 8<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m. in the Board Room.**

We will explore the many facets of minimalism, and how culling our physical worlds allows us to clear out and make room for what is important in our lives. How do we learn to “love people, use things”? Minimalism explores not just how much stuff we have, but the underlying why we have that stuff, and how parting with it allows more time, more money, and greater connection to the people and the causes that fulfill us. We will take small steps together and individually, sharing the experiences and feelings they evoke.

Sources including Marie Kondo, Joshua Fields Milburn, Ryan Nikodemus, Joshua Becker, share their spiritual as well as home-tidying journeys with us, and we with each other.

Imagine having the garages – in both your house and in your mind – neat and orderly. Not just with everything (crammed) in its place, but with the un-useful, the unnecessary, the hurtful and ugly having found new homes, so that the useful and the necessary, the soul-feeding and the beautiful, can live out loud...can thrive.



## 7<sup>th</sup> Principle Discussions

Led by Jerry Waters, **March 22<sup>nd</sup> (4<sup>th</sup> Sundays), 9 a.m. in the Board Room.**

What does the Corona Virus mean for the interdependent web of life? Is another flu pandemic on the horizon? How does this compare with the other flu epidemics we have had in recent years. How does it compare with the 1918 Flu Pandemic? Was this promoted by Climate Change? Are our government organizations responding adequately? What impacts might this have on all of us?

Come join us for a glimpse of information that is not making the nightly news.



## RECYCLE USED ORAL CARE PRODUCTS

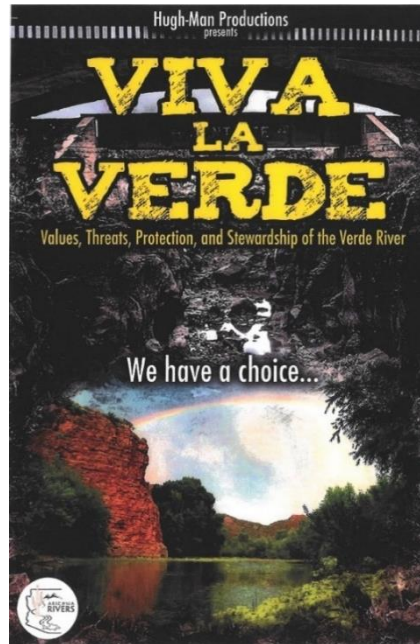
**ANY BRAND** – Toothbrushes, toothpaste tubes, floss containers, & packaging

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



## *SPECIAL EVENTS*

**Gary Beverly, Producer of "Viva la Verde!" <https://vivalaverde.org/> will present this documentary at VUU on Sunday, March 15 at 11:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary following the Sunday Service. This is sponsored by the VUU Environmental Action Team. Plan to join us. We will have pizza for lunch. Donations to cover the cost of the lunch are appreciated.**



"Viva la Verde!" unveils the value of and the threats to Northern Arizona's upper Verde River, a little-known and under-appreciated river supporting some of the best surviving riparian habitat in the Southwest. The 58-minute video, produced by Hugh Denno and Gary Beverly, tells the story of the history, ecology, geology, and hydrology of the river using animations and interviews with scientists and river activists. The film features outstanding photography and video footage collected during five years of exploring the river. "Viva la Verde!" concludes by demonstrating how individual citizens can help preserve this unique and wonderful river, the only surviving living perennial river in Arizona.

[Ten Reasons to Protect the Verde](#)

2020 **FUUNd** Together – Thanks to everyone who participated in this year's **FUUNd** Together. We will be in touch if you are a 'winner' and we will let you know if there are any more **FUUNd** Together items/activities still available.



## Pacific Southwest District

PACIFIC WESTERN REGION OF THE UUA  
BIG FAITH, NO BORDERS

### Registration Is Now Open for the PSW 2020 District Assembly: The Climate of Justice

Go to [our website](#) right now to register for the 2020 Pacific Southwest District Assembly April 24-26 at Unitarian Universalists San Luis Obispo, California!

This year's DA theme is "The Climate of Justice". This will be the best opportunity this year for UU congregations to share how they are working for climate justice and learn from one another about how to live out our seventh principle: **"Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part"**.

The keynote speaker will be Aly Tharp, the program director of the [Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth \(UUMFE\)](#) and leader of the UUA & UUMFE's [Create Climate Justice](#) initiative.

The DA will kick off Friday night with a screening of the film "The Condor and the Eagle", followed by a discussion with the film's producer.

Aly Tharp will join UUs from throughout PSWD as we strategize for a future in which our congregations are at the forefront of the fight for climate justice in their communities.

There will be a number of opportunities for worship, youth activities, workshops, craft making and networking with fellow UUs from throughout Southern California, Southern Nevada and Arizona.

For more information, visit [pwsduua.org](http://pwsduua.org)!



**Serving at I-HELP**

On Wednesday, March 11 and on Thursday, March 12 we will be cleaning out the storage room, sacristy, tech booth, kitchen, foyer in the Sanctuary. Yes, we will be throwing things out, and giving things away. If you have any precious item(s) in any of these places, remove them before March 11 or put together a persuasive position paper to send to Sue Ringler, ([office@vuu.org](mailto:office@vuu.org)) to make your case for keeping the item(s) in one of these storage places. We are recruiting fearless, thorough cleaners/organizers for our work these 2 days. Again, if you'd like to help, contact Sue. And did I say we will have fun, if not, yes...yes, we will have fun!



## Capital PLANNING Committee Update



We have NOT given up on VUU's VISION for an improved campus that honors **FAITH FORMATION** (CLASSROOMS on east side of parking lot), **FELLOWSHIP** (a NEW SANCTUARY so that current sanctuary can be repurposed as SOCIAL SPACE), and **INTERFAITH COMMUNITY OUTREACH** (connecting the spaces with an OASIS TOWN SQUARE).

As we reported at the Congregational Conversation on Feb 9, the Capital Planning Committee continues to work with Wendell Burnette Architects to see how VUU's VISION can be accomplished with the **\$1.2 million pledged** during the Capital Campaign—and what we might accomplish for just a little more. WBA plans to present new options to the CPC, the CCC, and the Board on March 23—and then we will report our recommendations to the Congregation. Stay tuned! (And feel free to contact CPC co-chairs Barb Quijada or Jim Horton or anyone else on the committee, if you have questions or concerns.)

### 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 March 2020 are:

10 to 19 Years:

*Nancy Wittenberg*

20 to 29 Years:

*Sally Buntschuh*

*Jennifer Horen & Frank Ray*

30 to 39 Years:

*Lorraine Rice*

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



## **Promoting Social, Economic and Environmental Justice**

### **Paz de Cristo March Donation: Feminine Hygiene Products and Disposable Diapers (sizes 3-5)**

Please support our focus charity, Paz de Cristo, by bringing in a donation of feminine hygiene products and disposable diapers (sizes 3 to 5) at any time during the month of March. Drop your donation in the designated container in the foyer of the sanctuary. Thanks for your continued generosity to Paz.



In addition, VUU is continuing to collect gas and grocery gift cards for Paz, which helps them maximize their buying power. Fry's are especially appreciated because they can go toward gas or groceries. Gift cards can be placed in the lock box in the foyer. Thanks for your generosity!

### **Paz de Cristo needs YOU**

Are you looking for another way to serve others? 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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, ***that will be March 15 this month***, 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!



Many many thanks to everyone who donated to and/or turned out to pack bags for Women4Women Tempe on Saturday February 8<sup>th</sup>. You are amazing! We made 250+ bags, and they were extremely happy for our donation. We'll be getting together again on Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup> to pack bags and help them expand their mission to provide low income/homeless women with feminine hygiene products. More information will follow closer to that date.



VUU will be the location of the **one-n-ten Chandler Outreach Satellite support group**. Meeting every Wednesday evening, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This group is for LGBTQ+ and Allied Youth, ages 14 - 24.

We are excited to announce that VUU SPECTRUM will participate in the Phoenix Pride Parade on Sunday, April 5. Step off is at 10 a.m. Event Location: 300 E Indian School Rd, Phoenix 85012.



Would you like to join us? **STOP BY THE SPECTRUM TABLE BEFORE OR AFTER SERVICES ON MARCH 22** FOR MORE INFO. Contact Sue, [office@vuu.org](mailto:office@vuu.org)

### **SOULS TO THE POLLS SUNDAY MARCH 8!!**

As you know, early voting for the March 17 Arizona Democratic Presidential Preference (primary) Election has begun! In 2018, our very first Souls to the Polls was a great success, so we're doing it again!

Please be advised that the following three locations will be open on **Sunday, March 8 from 1pm – 3pm**.

- [Burton Barr Library](#): 1221 N. Central Ave; Phoenix 85004
- [Surprise City Hall](#): 16000 N. Civic Center Plaza; Surprise, 85374
- [Southeast Mesa Recorder's Office](#): 222 E. Javelina; Mesa 85210

Be sure to share and invite other church leaders and members to vote or drop off their completed ballots at any of the above locations.

Please direct voters with questions to our election hotline at 602-506-1511 or for general Maricopa County election information, to [www.Maricopa.vote](http://www.Maricopa.vote) and [www.BeBallotReady.vote](http://www.BeBallotReady.vote).

The **East Valley Refugee Network** of faith communities continues to use its combined strengths to assist refugees and asylum seekers where it can and keep its members informed. To that end, please plan to attend the following informational meeting:

The Florence Project is the only organization in Arizona that provides free legal and social services to detained men, women, and unaccompanied children in immigration custody facing removal proceedings. Two of their attorneys will speak to our volunteers and other interested persons on March 5th, 7pm, at Desert Palm UCC, 1230 E Guadalupe, Tempe, AZ 85283. Please come hear about this amazing nonprofit, learn about the current laws and regulations governing the asylum process, and hear about a potential new way to serve.

**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](mailto:socialaction@vuu.org)



# VUU GATHERINGS

## Social Suppers



Would you like to get to know more people from the VUU community? Join the Social Suppers group and participate in monthly potluck dinners. A purely social event, there are no requirements aside from having a good time. On the first Saturday of each month, **that is March 7<sup>th</sup> this month**, small groups of 8 or 10 meet at a host's house for a delicious meal with a variety of side dishes. The hosts and attendees are always changing, so each month you will get to meet and visit with new people. Participants are not required to host, and most dietary restrictions can be accommodated. Singles, couples, and families are welcome, and you don't need to be a VUU member to participate.

To sign up, please email [circlesuppers@vuu.org](mailto:circlesuppers@vuu.org).

## EastVUUs



March is going to be another terrific month for EastVuu! Mark your calendars for our **SECOND THURSDAY POTLUCK NIGHT 6:00-8:30pm** at Apache Wells HOA Building [2223 N 56<sup>th</sup> St](#), Mesa 85215.

**MARCH 12<sup>th</sup>:** "We the People" Dr. Anne Schneider will present an update on state and national legislative developments of interest to progressive citizens and suggest ways to get engaged and have an impact on our world.

...and the **FOURTH THURSDAY SOCIAL NIGHT 5:30-8:30pm**

**MARCH 26<sup>th</sup>:** All Out Bowling Fun at Fat Cats Mesa - [5846 E Longbow Parkway Mesa, AZ 85215](#); Meet at 5:30pm and bowl from 6-8pm; Eat in advance or buy your own dinner at Fat Cats; Bowling cost \$18.50 – includes shoes and unlimited soft drinks; RSVP to Perii by 3/23 to reserve your spot on a lane, [\(413\)429-6937](tel:4134296937).



## **WOMEN'S GROUP MEETING:**

Our next meeting will be after the service, (about 11:45), March 22, 2020. All women are welcome. Our topic will be "Marches to remember March." What are your memories of protest marches, marches of support, marching bands, etc. How do we march forward?

We will share a simple potluck luncheon. Fill your plate in the kitchen and meet at the front of the sanctuary.

Contacts: Margaret Stewart: 508-662-6348, [mjs.ontheroad@gmail.com](mailto:mjs.ontheroad@gmail.com)

Johnnie Godfrey: 480-231-8381, [johnniegirl85218@gmail.com](mailto:johnniegirl85218@gmail.com)



**WAYFARERS - Happy HoUUr, March 20, 2020, 4:30, Fibber Magee's, 1989 Elliot Rd, Chandler, 480-722-9434**

Wayfarers are "travelers" who meet at different locations around the valley. And what better place to celebrate an "extended" St. Patrick's Day than at an Irish owned and operated pub! This is another favorite place (even though they ARE a Seahawks pub!) with great appetizers, beers and wine, and regular menu. They always treat us REALLY well, with a setup in their back-room area with few other people there. You don't need to be a VUU member, but you **DO** need to RSVP with Susan Lacy at [lacynoe@yahoo.com](mailto:lacynoe@yahoo.com) by **Wednesday, March 18** so the pub can have appropriate seating and staff for us. Anyone is welcome to join us for great food and conversation. Just let me know! And GO SEAHAWKS!! (sorry, I AM from Washington! 😊) Hope to see you there!

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR APRIL IS MARCH 15**



**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](mailto:claudettewassil@hotmail.com) and she'll get you on the list.



**Saturday, March 14, 6:15-9:00 pm Game Night at Angela and Amy's** (2019 W Lemon Tree Place #1101, Chandler. Guest parking is extremely limited, so you can park at Back on Track--the chiropractor around the corner, 2051 W Warner Rd # 1, Chandler, AZ --Angela will direct from parking lot. We have two cats on premises.

What could be more fun than a night of games and cards? Dominoes, Apples to Apples, card games, or anything your heart desires, just bring it along. We will all bring "substantial" snacks to share and munch our way through "dinner." Tea, water, and juice drinks 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 email to roommate Amy at [amy.mekemson@gmail.com](mailto:amy.mekemson@gmail.com),. For last minute directions, text or call Amy at 515-451-3275.

**Sunday March 15: Experience Ireland at the Musical Instrument Museum** - Come for a day steeped in Irish culture at the MIM, starting with traditional Irish music at 10:30, ending with an Irish step-dancing performance from 3:15 to 4 PM, and including an Irish band, Irish fiddle, and more during the day. We'll choose from an Irish-inspired menu for lunch in the MIM cafeteria. Museum admission is \$20. Meet at Starbuck's at Elliot and Priest, 1620 West Elliot Rd, #106, Tempe, at 9:30 AM to carpool, or at the MIM at 10 AM. (Address for MIM is 4725 E. Mayo Blvd., Phoenix). RSVP to Kathryn at [poodlady@gmail.com](mailto:poodlady@gmail.com) or by text to 512-789-6680 by March 10<sup>th</sup>. More info available on the MIM website: <https://mim.org>

**Friday, March 27, 6:15 pm: Monthly dinner out at Mi Amigos Mexican Restaurant** (SW corner of Gilbert and Southern, 1264 S Gilbert Rd, Mesa). Come join us for delicious fresh Mexican food and excellent conversation. RSVP to Claudette at 973-768-6047 by text or phone call by March 24<sup>th</sup>.



## Caring & Concerns Neighborhood Contacts

As spring approaches, people take advantage of the nice weather to get out and do more. As you get busier, remember to take the time to connect with and appreciate your friends and family. It's the bonds between us that keep us connected.

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

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

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](http://www.vuu.org). Articles, announcements and other VUUPoint material may be emailed to: [office@vuu.org](mailto: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 Dr. Andy Burnette, Senior Minister  
Katie Seiferth, Acting Director of Music Ministry  
Marci Beaudoin, Director of Faith Formation  
Hayley Wynne, Faith Formation Assistant  
Sue Ringler, Congregation Administrator & Social Action Coordinator  
Joe Martin, Maintenance Technician  
David Berry, pianist*

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