

Unitarian Universalist Church Newsletter

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The Newsletter of Unitarian Universalist Church, Surprise, AZ is published monthly except August.

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40th Anniversary 1975 - 2015

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April 2018

From The Minister's Desk

Our overarching theme this year is “reimagining the common good.” As I was listening to a news program recently, I was distressed by the thought that we cannot agree on what is good for all of us because we lack common experiences and a common worldview. In fact, our very different worldviews color our perceptions to such a degree that they limit our ability to take in new information from each other. “A man with a conviction is a hard man to change,” [Leon] Festinger, Henry Riecken, and Stanley Schacter wrote in



When Prophecy Fails, their 1957 book “Tell him you disagree and he turns away. Show him facts or figures and he questions your sources. Appeal to logic and he fails to see your point . . . Suppose that he is presented with evidence, unequivocal and undeniable evidence, that his belief is wrong: what will happen? The individual will frequently emerge, not only unshaken, but even more convinced of the truth of his beliefs than ever before.” [Julie Beck, “This Article Won’t Change Your Mind - The facts on why facts alone can’t fight false beliefs”, 03/13/2017, [https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2017/03/this-article-wont-change-your-mind/519093/.](https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2017/03/this-article-wont-change-your-mind/519093/)]

“Social psychologist Lee Ross and fellow psychologist Andrew Ward have outlined three interrelated assumptions that make up [a phenomenon Ross called] naïve realism. According to their model, people:

- Believe that they see the world objectively and without bias.
- Expect that others will come to the same

conclusions, so long as they are exposed to the same information and interpret it in a rational manner.

- Assume that others who do not share the same views must be ignorant, irrational, or biased.”
- [[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Na%C3%AFve_realism_\(psychology\).](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Na%C3%AFve_realism_(psychology))]

Like many others, I have been mystified and frustrated by our inability to agree as a society on what would seem to be obvious, basic, general policies: protection of our world environment, for example. Or preventing any attempt by foreign governments to influence our electoral process, regardless of whether such attempt was in favor of one candidate over another, or was successful. But my worldview is a prism, through which I view everything. It affects what I choose to believe, whom I choose to trust, and fundamental notions of right and wrong, like the idea that reducing inequality among people is a good goal.

Everything that segregates us from each other in the beginning further isolates and divides us in the end. That includes our worldviews. I think it is futile to hope for shared, specific end policies and common goals if we hope only to convince others of our beliefs after worldviews are entrenched. I think the best hope we have is to agree on general principles early, both in terms of discussions and the age of those participating in the discussions.

What I like about our Seven UU Principles is that I have never talked to anyone who disagreed with any of them. If they were more widely known and accepted in



Rev. Elvis

the beginning, especially by young people, not only in UU churches but outside them, I think we would have a much better chance of coming to end policies most of us could agree on. That is why I take seriously our mission to promulgate our Seven Principles, both in word and in deed, especially to younger generations. I'll see you in church.

Yours in our faith,



President's Letter to Congregation

Pat Lindgren, President

Earlier this week I watched, listened and read about the young people who left their schools at 10:00 for 17 minutes to tell politicians that "Enough is Enough". They were fed up with being targets for mass shooters. Thousands of young people from hundreds of schools in most states stood up for common sense. I was so proud of them.



It took me back more than 50 years ago when a lot of young Americans marched and held up signs protesting for civil rights for all people but especially for people of color. And then again 40 years ago when young (and older) people marched for women's rights, and finally 20 years ago when they marched for LGBTQ rights. Most young people have a good handle on what is fair and right. These movements did not cure the ills they were protesting, but things did get better for a while. But there is always back sliding on changes to social problems. Part of the problem is that the young people get older. They start concentrating on jobs, families, a house, as they should, but they lose the focus on social change. Our best hope is that more young people come along with renewed commitment. Some of these protesters will be 18 by November 2018 and many more, if not most, will be 18 by November 2020. I ask and hope that they will register to vote and will vote for candidates of either party who have not taken money from the NRA.

On the local scene, we had a wonderful auction this year. We made the most money since 2013, when I started working on this. It is always a lot of fun seeing the items people donate and the outfits people wear. In two years, 2020, I will be able to join

the live auction when I give the computer job to someone else. I also heard that we had a great picnic at the White Tank Mountains last week. Someday if my allergies go away, I can join that party too.

UU Endowment Fund

Naming the Endowment Fund of the Church as a beneficiary of your estate or a specific asset, such as an IRA or life insurance plan, provides a simple way to begin your legacy now by providing for our church work in the future. If your circumstances change, you can alter your plans at any time.

For further information call:
Brooks Marshall at 623-362-1195.

BUUK Circle

Julie Wambach

BUUK Circle has moved to the SECOND Tuesday evening 6:30-8:30pm in the Choir Room. Please join us whether you've finished the book or haven't yet started it. For more information, contact Julie Wambach azwambach@icloud.com.

April 10, 2018, 6:30-8:30, Choir Room - "**The Line Becomes the River: Dispatches from the Border**" by Francisco Cantú

A U.S. border guard who resigned because of what he observed tells of the atrocities that take place between the U.S. and Mexican border. "A must-read for anyone who thinks 'build a wall' is the answer to anything." - Esquire

May 8, 2018, 6:30-8:30, Choir Room - "**Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth**" by Reza Aslan

"A real strength of the book is that it provides an introduction to first-century Palestine, including economics, politics and religion. Mr. Aslan uses previous scholarship to describe the precarious existence of Jewish peasants and the lower classes, and how the Romans and the Jewish upper class exploited the land and the people." - NY Times

Please have information for the Newsletter submitted by Noon on the 15th of each month to the Editor, Charlie Mannino at newsletter@uusurprise.org

Musings from the Loft!

Debby Bullins, Music Director



No foolin', we are kicking off the month by joyfully lifting our voices in song. Set your alarm a little early on April 1 at 10:10 a.m. when we gather for our monthly Hymn Sing. Please join Connie Jahrmarkt and me around the piano in the sanctuary as we sing some of

our favorite hymns and try out some not so familiar ones. We welcome your suggestions of your favorite ones or others you might like to try. By the way, dancing, clapping and smiles are encouraged. It is a great opportunity to get to know each other better in a very casual setting.

Our service on April 22 will celebrate Earth Day with a musical gift from Kent Trostel that you won't want to miss.

Please mark your calendars to arrive for service before 10:00 a.m. on May 6, when we will host pianist, composer and arranger, Ryan Marvel, for Special Music. You will want to be in your seats early to fully enjoy this experience. He will be playing selections from his newest album, "Reflecting Forward". The album is a personal and healing journey through music, and has recently won Album of the Year from Solopiano.com and has been nominated for the same award from Whisperings Solo Piano Radio. Ryan, a native of Colorado, began his training at an early age, continuing through high school, eventually attending NAU on a music scholarship. His passion was always in composition and arranging. After trying other business opportunities, he took a part time job as a pianist at the Valley UU congregation in Chandler, AZ in April 1999. That decision would bring musical fulfillment back into his life for good. Since 2005, he has released four albums while serving as Director of Music and Choirs at Foothills Unitarian Church in Fort Collins, CO.

"The most valuable possession you can own is an open heart. The most powerful weapon you can be is an instrument of peace." Carlos Santana



Regional Assembly Information Pacific Western Region Portland, Oregon, April 27-29, 2018

Registration for the Pacific Western Regional Assembly will be open through April 15. The four districts of the UUA's Pacific Western Region will gather April 27-29 in Portland, OR for the 2018 Regional Assembly. Speakers include civil rights activist, the Rev. Dr. William Barber; Washington Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, advocate for women's, immigrant, civil, and human rights; and the Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, newly elected UUA president. Programming includes workshops, worship, district meetings, and an optional social justice activity. A day-long Professional Day designed for religious professionals is planned for Friday, April 27, before the start of Regional Assembly. Discount lodging is available at the Portland DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, site of the Regional Assembly. Childcare and youth programming will be available. Registration will open by January 4. Watch the PWR website (www.uua.org/pwr) for full details.

Got youngsters? Great! We have an exciting Kids' Camp planned for them.

Got teens? Wonderful! They'll be Making CoUUrageous Connections together.

Each district will hold their annual meeting on Saturday afternoon, April 28. If you will be attending Regional Assembly and would like to serve as a delegate for your congregation, contact your board president. They have through April 20 to certify the delegates from your congregation.

UU General Assembly

**June 20-24, 2018,
in Kansas City, MO.**

Registration opened March 1st at UUA.org.

Once we receive delegate information,

I will let the congregation know.

Sharon Beard, Denominational Affairs Chair

The Monthly Book Report

MaryAnne Balzer

Very soon during April, your UU Surprise Library will convert to self-service mode for the summer months. Librarian MaryAnne will be on summer travel until about October first. However, please feel free to continue to browse and borrow some good summer reading from your Library.

The card catalogue and guidebook located on the check out table will help you locate your books of interest. In addition, the shelves are labeled with the topics of the books located on them. If you wish to speak with MaryAnne about any matter, please just call, text or email me at any time. I will gladly help with your needs or questions:

Phone/text: 303-589-5729

Email: balzerfreespirit@gmail.com

If you have a spare few minutes before or after service on Sundays over summer, the Library could use your help making sure the room is tidy, books are shelved and in general the room is simply maintained. Jobs entail checking back in and shelving circulated books; once or twice during summer shelf reading to be sure the call numbers on the book spines are in order; and help overseeing and maintaining the sale cart. If you are interested in helping out for one or more of these quick jobs, please contact MaryAnne at any time.

Now to start out your summer reading season, let's have a look at one of the recently donated books on the Library shelves ready for your check out:

“The Angles of Light; New & Selected Poems,”
by Luci Shaw, number 811.54SHA. The author is a poet, essayist, teacher and retreat leader. Her “poetry speaks straight into one’s soul. She takes ideas and lights them up with unforgettable images. She is an artist who knows herself and her God and communicates her heart in the beautiful words she uses. I can think of nothing more enjoyable than curling up on a couch or relaxing at the beach with her poems in my hand”, a quote from the Amazon five star review for this terrific summer read.

Here’s wishing everyone a blessed summer season shared with some terrific UU reading!



Please Support the Outlaw Dirty Money Voter Initiative

Michael C. Piper

Eight years ago, in a 5-4 vote, the United States Supreme Court issued the Citizens United decision. In Citizens United, the Court held that the free speech clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution prohibits the government from restricting independent expenditures for communications.

This landmark decision unleashed a flood of political contributions. Prior to Citizens United, there was \$143 million in campaign spending by outside groups during the 2008 election cycle. By 2016, that spending rose to \$1.4 billion, a nine-fold increase.

Today, wealthy and powerful people pour unlimited amounts of cash into our elections while shielding their identities. They operate in secret, hiding behind legal barriers to keep us from knowing who they are.

I believe Arizonans have the right to make voting decisions based on complete information, including who is spending money to influence our votes. That's why I am gathering signatures to put an Arizona constitutional amendment on the ballot in the November general election.

This non-partisan amendment effort, led by former Attorneys General Tom Horne and Terry Goddard, says Arizonans have a right to know where the money in politics comes from. It would require that anyone who spends over \$10,000 trying to influence an Arizona election must disclose the original source of the money.

To support the campaign, please see the outlawdirtymoney.com website. If you'd like to sign the petition to put this proposed amendment on the November 2018 election ballot, I will have petitions available for your signature in the Social Hall before and after Sunday church services.

Let's make 2018 the year when we secure our right to know who is funding political campaigns. Let's put the Outlaw Dirty Money constitutional amendment on the ballot and pass it in November. With your help, we can do this.

What A Party!

Jeff and Pricilla London

Our own UU's showed us how to have fun and accomplish an important goal at the same time. The 2018 UU's Rock Auction not only brought in over \$12,000, we also spent the evening enjoying our favorite tunes from the Past. Ron Wambach (Rick's brother) did a masterful job as DJ for the event, honoring special requests and challenging our memories of old favorites.

Rick and Julie Wambach kept the beverage table going while Priscilla London presented the silent auction treasures in style. Guests were shocked to see Elvis himself serenading them as they registered at the door. Later, he sang some of our favorites of the day.

Appetizers were passed while guests checked out the twenty delicious desserts donated for the cause. Mary Beth Chrest, with the able help of Ruth Halpert, organized and displayed this very successful event.

The Malt Stand run by Reggie Johnston and her helpers was yet another nostalgic reminder of another time.

By the time the live auction started, everyone knew that auctioneer Patricia Balfour would be assisted by none other than Elvis number two, our own Terry Sims.

Finally, Sherry Robinson and Steve Shanklin presented us with our 50's style meal along with more of our favorite music from the past.

Jan and Jake Flint commanded the check out crew and made the process as painless as possible.

Thanks to everyone involved for a great evening.



*Photos by
Charlie Mannino,
mild mannered
reporter for the
Daily Planet*

*Headshots by
John Marshall*



RE Report

Lisa Lawrence, DRE

The rain and clouds drifted away and gave us a beautiful afternoon for our annual White Tanks Picnic/Cookout. Picnickers enjoyed an afternoon relaxing in the outdoors with friends, food and Cornhole while the kids also enjoyed a hike, scavenger hunt and a nearby desert-themed playground. We had a great turnout. Always a good time, be sure to join us next year!



Coming up on Easter, April 1st, RE will be holding an Easter Egg Hunt for the children outside, on the grounds surrounding the church immediately following service. This year's egg hunt will be slightly different. To change things up a bit, the children will be hunting for more than eggs in our first ever Easter Scavenger Hunt! After collecting a certain number of eggs and other various Easter items they will receive a prize. Be sure to have your children bring their Easter baskets to church that morning. I will have extras just in case.

In the classroom this month the children will be hearing the following stories: "Daniel in the Lion's Den," "Jonah and the Great Fish," "David and Goliath," "The Wisdom Bird: A Tale of Solomon and Sheba" and "Jesus."

New Members

Chris Baker, Membership

New members were welcomed by the congregation after a brief ceremony by Rev. Terry Sims with new Membership Chair, Chris Baker, also a new member. Welcome and congratulations.



We Are Here To Be Of Assistance!

Lay Pastoral Care Committee

If you, your family or another member of our congregation are experiencing illness, hardship, isolation or are in need of support, please contact Lenore Gaudin (623-933-0186) or the church office (623-875-2550) or speak with any of the committee members on Sunday at church. We wear a second name tag that says *Lay Pastoral Care*.



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**Our web site address
has changed to**

www.uusurpriseaz.org

**Unitarian
Universalist Church
of Surprise**

A Progressive, Inclusive Faith Community

WELCOME



Suggested language for including UU Church of Surprise in your will or estate plan:

I herein give and bequeath \$ _____, or _____ percent of the rest, remainder and residue of my estate, or the proceeds from the sale of real estate by my estate that I own located at _____ to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Surprise located at 17540 N. Avenue of the Arts, Surprise, AZ 85378-2581.
Federal tax ID # _____

*For more information about creating a legacy to the UU Church of Surprise
Please call Brooks Marshall at 623-362-1195*

Including a gift to UU Church of Surprise Arizona in your will or estate plan helps your church in its mission of providing a liberal voice in our Community, State and Country.

- Simplicity** Just a few sentences in your will or trust are all that is needed.
- Versatility** You can structure the bequest to leave a specific item or amount of money, make a gift contingent on a certain event, or leave a percentage of your estate to us.
- Tax Relief** If you are subject to estate tax, your gift allows you to be eligible for an estate tax Charitable deduction for the gift's full value.

Transportation Resources:

Valley Metro Transportation Service - 602-266-8723

Previously listed as Dial-A-Ride and now run by Discount Cab. They will provide transportation within the Surprise area for \$1.00 per person each way. For medical appointments in Sun City, Sun City West and Peoria the charge is \$1.25, per person each way. They will only take you to medical appointments outside of Surprise.

Benevilla in Surprise - 623-584-4999

This non-profit agency provides free food shopping services for shut ins. You provide a grocery list over the phone, and they will shop for you free of charge. You only pay for the groceries. They also provide transportation for medical appointments, a friendly visitor service who will visit or call, and a handy person who will do minor repairs like change a light bulb; a wonderful service for people in need. *This service is free of charge if you notify them at least 12 days in advance.*

Peoria Dial-A-Ride - 623-773-7435, \$3.00 ADA \$2.00, needs 1 day advance notice. Note: As of January 1, 2017 Dial a Ride is not available unless you are ADA certified. To get ADA certification you have to be declared disabled for at least 6 months. This applies to people living in Surprise.

Northwest Valley Connect - 623-282-9300

NVC helps connect seniors and people with disabilities with available public, private and volunteer transportation resources based on their individual needs. Personalized assistance and support is available by contacting our Call—Click—Connect center at (623) 282-9300. Area transportation resources are also listed on our website at NorthwestValleyConnect.org.

West Valley Connections - 623-282-9300 Call for information regarding services available.



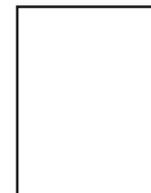
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40th Anniversary 1975 - 2015



First Class Mail

Affirmation

Love is the spirit of this church

And service is its law.

This is our great covenant:

To dwell together in peace,

To seek the truth in freedom,

And to help one another.

Join us for Sunday service at 10:30 am

*If you are not a member but would like to receive church announcements by email,
please send your email address and full name to uucsaz2@gmail.com.*

Sermon Titles For April 2018

The Theme for March is "Transformation"

4/1 - Rev. Terry Sims..... Oh, the Possibilities!

Having an attitude of scarcity, a feeling that there will never be enough, confines us to death's tomb. But an attitude of abundance lets life burst open. This Easter we will celebrate transformations that offer themselves to us continually, both personally and as a church.

4/8 - Rev. Terry Sims A Journey Toward Wholeness

There are too many people who tell other people how to live their "one wild and precious life," to quote poet Mary Oliver. Today, celebrating Phoenix Pride, we will look at personal transformation from the perspective of our LGBTQ friends and how they offer the rest of us our own life-changing possibilities.

4/15 - Amy St. Peter The Power of Why

One word has the power to transform a life. As children, we incessantly ask why as we explore the world around us. As adults, we ask why as we try to reconcile the world around us with the world inside us.

Unitarian Universalism embraces the why and our pursuit to answer our own why.

4/22 - Rev. Terry Sims..... A New Earth

On this Earth Day, we will consider how humanity has transformed the Earth during our brief history on the planet. Some are looking for a new Earth-like planet to colonize. But maybe we ought to ask ourselves first to transform the Earth again by reversing our destructive habits.

4/29 - Rev. Julian Rush..... A Religious (and rather musical) Pilgrimage In Search Of A Sho-Nuff Real Transformation

We'll sing, we'll talk, laugh out loud, and maybe shed a tear or two as we make our trip together.