

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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July/August 2018

From The Minister's Desk

Amy Sun wrote an insightful blog article in 2014 entitled "Equality Is Not Enough: What the Classroom Has Taught Me About Justice." There she said: "[H]ere's the thing: Treating everyone exactly the same actually is not fair. What equal treatment does . . . is erase our differences and



promote privilege. Equity and equality are two strategies we can use in an effort to produce fairness. Equity is giving everyone what they need to be successful. Equality is treating everyone the same. Equality aims to promote fairness, but it can only work if everyone starts from the same place

and needs the same help. Equity appears unfair, but it actively moves everyone closer to success by 'leveling the playing field.' [N]ot everyone starts at the same place, and not everyone has the same needs." [<https://everydayfeminism.com/2014/09/equality-is-not-enough/>.] That is why our Second UU Principle promotes and affirms "justice, **equity** (not equality), and compassion in human relations."

We live in a world in which we know for a certainty that not everyone starts from the same place or needs the same help to be successful. In his report, to be released in late June, 2018, Philip Alston, the United Nations human rights investigator and special rapporteur on extreme poverty, writes: "U.S. policies since President Lyndon Johnson's war on poverty in the 1960s have been 'neglectful at best' But the policies pursued over the past year seem deliberately designed to remove basic protections from the poorest, punish

those who are not in employment and make even basic health care into a privilege to be earned rather than a right of citizenship. . . . The tax reform will worsen this situation and ensure that the United States remains the most unequal society in the developed world." Almost 41 million people live in poverty, 18.5 million of them in extreme poverty, and children account for one in three poor, he said. The United States has the highest youth poverty rate among industrialized countries. **In a rich country like the United States, the persistence of extreme poverty is a political choice made by those in power.** [Stephanie Nebehay (Reuters), editing by David Stamp, June 2, 2018, <https://www.yahoo.com/news/americas-poor-becoming-more-destitute-under-trump-u-110313048.html>, emphasis mine.]

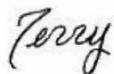
"[Nick] Hanauer is a self-made billionaire. He made his money as a serial entrepreneur and venture capitalist Hanauer's business acumen has allowed him to become one of the wealthiest Americans — the so-called 1 percent — but it has also made him an unlikely champion of the poor and a passionate advocate for the advancement of economic [equity] in the U.S. Hanauer is aware that some form of economic inequality is an essential part of a healthy economy. 'That's not in dispute,' he says. The question, however, is how much of it should exist. In the late 1970s, the richest 1 percent of Americans shared only about 8 percent of the national income. By 2007, however, that number had grown to almost 23 percent, while the income share of the bottom 50 percent had fallen from about 20 percent to about 12 percent in 2015. Hanauer says: 'That's not capitalism. That's socialism for the rich.'

Ultimately, Hanauer believes people should call their elected representatives and demand policies that create wage-and-overtime increases and reject cutting taxes for wealthy corporations . . . [Don't get conned by this trickle-down nonsense that raising wages kills jobs — it doesn't. It's just a thing rich people say to poor people to keep rich people rich and poor people poor. It's a lie. Don't believe it." [Brian Prowse-Gany and Joyzel Acevedo, June 7, 2018, Yahoo News! <https://www.yahoo.com/news/unfiltered-raising-wages-doesnt-kill-jobs-just-thing-rich-people-say-poor-people-184825813.html>.]

On May 21, 2018, The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival went to Washington, D.C. "to challenge members of Congress to address systemic racism, poverty, [] inequality, ecological devastation and militarism." This is the organization co-chaired by the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II. "The point, says Reverend Barber, is 'to change the nation's moral narrative' — because once the moral narrative changes, it becomes possible to move beyond mere politics and to begin the work of establishing justice for all." [John Nichols, "The Poor People's Campaign Is Changing the Moral Narrative of Congress", The Nation, <https://www.thenation.com/article/poor-peoples-campaign-changing-moral-narrative-congress/>.]

I believe Rev. Barber and The Poor People's Campaign are right. It is imperative that we change the nation's **moral** narrative. What do we actually care about and stand for in this country? What is the morally right thing to do? Everyone who adheres to religious or spiritual principles should be involved in asking and answering those questions. Do the questions and the answers include the poor? U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren put it starkly and correctly — this is nothing short of a "fight for the soul of America." We will not save the soul of America without achieving equity for the poor, as our Second UU Principle reminds us. I'll see you in church.

Yours in our faith,



Please have information for the Newsletter submitted by Noon on the 15th of each month to the Editor, Charlie Mannino at uucsnewsletter@gmail.com

President's Letter to Congregation

Pat Lindgren, President

If you were not in church June 17th, you missed an excellent sermon from our own Rev Cathy Mannino. She taught us about "mendacity." On



June 10th, Amy St. Peter gave an exciting sermon as well. Both sermons showed us different aspects of how to be a beloved community. We are very lucky to have so many members with the talent to write and deliver such good talks during the summer break for Terry. I know it is hard to

get out on these very hot Sundays in July and August, but if you make the effort you will be well rewarded.

This year I did not attend the General Assembly, so I had a chance to view the streaming version with the rest of the congregation on June 24th. I as looking forward to that. The Sunday service at GA is one of my two favorite events. It is the only time each year I get to feel what it is like to be a member of a mega church.

My other favorite is the Service of the Living Tradition which celebrates the new ministers getting their preliminary fellowships, the ministers getting their final fellowships and the ministers that are retiring; as well as a memorial for the ministers who have passed away during the last year.

Well this is my report until September. I hope we all have a safe, relaxing and fun summer. See you back in September.



Sermon Discussions

Tom Reemtsma

In May several members joined in discussing the theme of "Beloved Community." We recalled places we had been where a certain level of intimacy and trust had developed among a group of people. We talked of teams and schools and neighborhoods. There was nostalgia for the friendships of youth; and an awareness of the more considered or even restricted exposure to new folk. Was it their burdens, calamities or prides that stirred resistance?

I began to see in other lives scenarios that recalled my own encounters with life. This feels like friendship building through exposure. I'm looking forward to more group conversation with members of our congregation next year.

The Monthly Book Report

MaryAnne Balzer

'Tis the lazy hazy hot days of summer here in the Valley of the Sun. There is sure to be a book in the great list below to enjoy while staying cool! All of these are top notch donated books, so please say a silent thank-you to our generous donors when you check out your choice.

“Active Hope,” subtitled ‘How to Face the Mess We’re in Without Going Crazy,’ by Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone, number 303.4MAC. “The challenges we face can be difficult even to think about. Active Hope shows us how to strengthen our capacity to face this crisis so that we can respond with unexpected resilience and creative power,” Amazon 4.5 star reviewed.

“Pathways to Bliss,” subtitled ‘Mythology and Personal Transformation,’ by Joseph Campbell, number 201.3CAM. Published in 2004, Campbell’s books are timeless: “This volume of Campbell’s previously unpublished material marries his sweeping grasp of myths with the needs of contemporary people... Fans will recognize Campbell’s comforting cadence and intimacy... This is a fine volume for old friends and new followers,” excerpted from Amazon 4.5 star review.

“Life Lessons,” by Elizabeth Kübler-Ross and David Kessler, number 170.44KUB. Another older, but 4.5 star Amazon book: “Is this really how I want to live my life? Each one of us at some point asks this question. In this book, the authors guide readers through practical and spiritual lessons so we can live life to its fullest in every moment. In 14 accessible chapters, the authors reveal the truth about our fears, our hopes, our relationships, and, above all, the grandness of who we really are.”

“Beyond Magenta,” subtitled ‘Transgender Teens Speak Out,’ by Susan Kuklin, number 306.768KUK. Four Amazon stars and this review from Publishers Weekly: A sorely needed resource for teens and, frankly, many adults... Downright revelatory... Kuklin captures these six teenagers not as idealized exemplars of what it “means” to be transgender but as full, complex, and imperfect human beings. Kuklin brings her intimate, compassionate and respectful lens to their stories.”

Enjoy your summer reading with a great UU Library read!

Membership Committee

Chris Baker, Membership Chair

We are pleased to tell you that in the months of May/June we welcomed five new members who have signed the membership book.

A big welcome to Gary Anderson, John Bellinger, Wendy Garcia, Kitsy Horsely (returnee) and Joy Throm!

I am very happy to have Sherry Robinson, Liz Swan, and Gary McCarthy working with me on how to increase our membership and how to assimilate them once on board. If you are interested in joining us please let me know. We will be reaching out to other UU congregations to see how they have grown.

Janet Kafel has passed the job of creating name tags to me, which I happily accepted. We have decided on a new vendor and should have all the outstanding name tags soon. Sorry for any delays.



B&B Church Fundraiser

Susie Cole

On a recent trip to New Orleans, Sally Thomas and I stayed at the home of a couple from a local UU church that offers B&B services as a church fundraiser. Interested church members volunteer to host UU guests for short-term stays at their homes, providing lodging and breakfast. We paid by check made out to their congregation. We very much enjoyed the company of the couple and even attended their UU church on the Sunday we were there. They said they have met some very nice, interesting UUs from all over by participating. In the process, it has provided funds to their church.

Our Board recently agreed to research the possibility of developing a similar program for our UU church. At this point, I would like to find out if there are enough people in our congregation who would be interested and willing to participate by hosting guests in their homes. Once I know whether there is enough interest to proceed, we’ll work out the details. Remember, the host only provides bed and breakfast for short-term stays. The guest provides all other needs - transportation, other meals, entertainment and money to our church.

Contact me if you would consider being a host at scole100@msn.com.

RE Report

Lisa Lawrence, DRE

I love my job during the summer. I get to map, plan, outline, diagram and chart my upcoming season. That means time to research and explore resources to see what I can offer to our children and families before religious education classes resume on Sunday, September 9th. I will also be recruiting, training and scheduling volunteers; picking and scheduling service projects; planning social events and updating program literature.



2018-2019 will also be an O.W.L. year. Separate workshops will be offered for grades 5-6 and K-1st. Our Whole lives is a sexuality curriculum that helps participants, guided by their parents and trained facilitators, to make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture.

Also, in a continued effort to share responsibilities equally among parents of children in our religious education program, we will once again ask for a commitment of participation for each family registered. This worked so well last year that we made it through without any scheduling shortages! Even with the aid of our parents, however, we will still need volunteers from the congregation at large. We couldn't do it without all of you! RE participation options include:

- **Lead Teacher**

Adapt lessons from our Tapestry of Faith curriculum and learn about Unitarian Universalism from a unique, hands-on perspective. With enough rotating teachers, this will be a commitment of once every 4-6 Sundays from September through May.

- **Teaching Assistant**

Two adults are required in every classroom for safety, classroom control, and assistance with projects, stories and discussion. There is no prep for this position. This will be a commitment of 6 Sundays, per family,

regardless of how many children are registered in the program, between September and May.

Teacher recruitment begins now! If you are interested in expanding your own knowledge, as well as that of our youth, please contact me at uucslisal@gmail.com. Training will take place in late August.

Name Tags

Chris Baker, Membership Chair

Magnetic name tags are now available for purchase through Chris Baker. They are \$5.25 each. To order yours, see Chris on Sundays at the table by the front door of the Social Hall or contact her at lacybee2010@gmail.com or 623-308-4277.

When you see a name badge with a green dot, it signifies a new member. Take time to say hello and welcome them to our congregation.

Musings from the Loft!!

Debby Bullins, Music Director



The heat is on, and all of us have mechanisms in place to deal with it. Whether it is traveling to cooler climates, hanging out in the pool or just falling in love with your HVAC system, Arizona summers are challenging.

I usually spend time doing all of the above as well as going to what I call "Music Summer School." This is the time that I refresh my musical knowledge, whether it is learning new music, searching for new choir anthems online at many varied publishers websites, planning Special Music events or accessing some music theory websites for some core work.

All I know is that summer has always been my favorite season filled with fun in the sun, playing in the water and visiting new countries and cultures. I hope to come back fulfilled and refreshed, ready to bring some new music to UUC Surprise.

The choir will be back in the loft beginning September 16. Please join us as we raise our voices and fearlessly sing.

"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

Sermon Titles For July 2018

7/1 - Emrys Staton **Cosmic Abundance**
Looking at the universe around us and inside us for wisdom and inspiration.

7/8 - Amy St. Peter **Giving Birth**
Despite all our beautiful differences, we share a common beginning. We are all born. As we move through this life, some of us give birth to children. All of us give birth to ideas and dreams. We will explore what we give birth to in our shared spiritual community and what this means for our individual journeys.

7/15 - Pat Lindgren **The World is not as Bad Off as You Think.**
Let's look at the world with "Factfulness" instead of opinion.

7/22 - Rebecca Riggs **Can You Imagine?**
Before we can bring change to the world to make it more just, loving, and beautiful, we need to be able to envision that new world. That vision lies within and is limited only by our imagination.

7/29 - Rev. Doug Bland **TBA**

Sermon Titles For August 2018

8/5 - Amy St. Peter **Love's Challenge**
Loving oneself and others takes on a myriad of forms and implications. In a spiritual community, how are we called to love one another?

8/12 - Rev. Julian Rush **We're Off to See the Wizard**
We left the month of May in gladness. We had a balanced budget at last, and there is a positive feeling among us, but we face a very sick world and a nation that is seriously divided. Where do we go from here?

8/19 - Pat Lindgren **I Don't Know**
It is amazing the number and variety of things that I don't know.

8/26 - Dr. Bonnie Saunders **The Golden Rule in Major Religions**
Usually when we think of the Golden Rule, we think of Judaism and Christianity, but it goes way beyond that. This sermon will explain the main ideas of ten major world religions and their versions of the Golden Rule.



Summer BUUK Circle

Sally Thomas

BUUK Circle meets the second Tuesday evening 6:30-8:30pm in the Choir Room. Those of us who will be here this summer have decided to continue our monthly meetings.

The book for Tuesday, July 10 is Lincoln in the Pardo by George Saunders. The Civil War is less than one year old. The fighting has begun in earnest, and the nation has begun to realize it is in for a long, bloody struggle. Meanwhile, President Lincoln's beloved eleven-year-old son, Willie, dies and is laid to rest in a Georgetown cemetery. Newspapers report that a grief-stricken Lincoln returns, alone to the crypt several times to hold his boy's body. From that seed of historical truth, George Saunders spins an unforgettable story of familial love and loss

The book for August 14 is Fascism: A Warning by Madeleine Albright. A personal and urgent examination of Fascism in the twentieth century and how its legacy shapes today's world, written by one of America's most admired public servants, the first woman to serve as U.S. Secretary of State. A fascist, observes Madeleine Albright, "is someone who claims to speak for a whole nation or group, is

utterly unconcerned with the rights of others, and is willing to use violence and whatever other means are necessary to achieve the goals he or she might have." "Fascism: A Warning" is a book for our times that is relevant to all times. Written by someone who has not only studied history but helped to shape it, this call to arms teaches us the lessons we must understand and the questions we must answer if we are to save ourselves from repeating the tragic errors of the past.

The book for September 11 is The President Is Missing by Bill Clinton and James Patterson. It confronts a threat so huge that it jeopardizes not just Pennsylvania Avenue and Wall Street, but all of America. Uncertainty and fear grip the nation. There are whispers of cyberterror and espionage and a traitor in the Cabinet. Even the President himself becomes a suspect, and then he disappears from public view. Set over the course of three days, "The President Is Missing" sheds a stunning light upon the inner workings and vulnerabilities of our nation. Filled with information that only a former Commander-in-Chief could know, this is the most authentic, terrifying novel to come along in many years.

For more information, contact me at sallythom@aol.com.

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.



Visit our web site for
current information
www.uusurpriseaz.org

Unitarian Universalist Church of Surprise

A Progressive, Inclusive Faith Community

WELCOME



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.



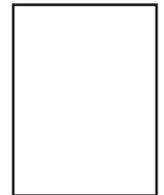
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40th Anniversary 1975 - 2015



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 July and August
are on page 5.**