

# Unitarian Universalist Church Newsletter

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40th Anniversary 1975 - 2015

## From The Minister's Desk

One lesson of the Hebrew scriptures is that prophets, those who see the future and tell others about it, are generally not welcome. For one thing, that is because their message is almost never good news. For another, they insist on pointing out that what the people they are prophesying to are doing wrong will result in dire consequences. No one likes a nag.



Let's take Jeremiah as an example, "the weeping prophet". His message was that God would destroy Judah, allowing the Babylonian Empire to defeat Jerusalem, as it eventually did, sending the Judeans into exile in Babylon. The reason for their nation's destruction, Jeremiah said, was that God was judging the people of Judah for their disbelief and disobedience of God's commandments, the greed of their priests, and their idolatry and worship of other gods, including parents burning their children as sacrifices to Moloch. The people's sin was so great that Jeremiah declared they had broken God's covenant with them. For his trouble in telling the people that God would punish and destroy them, Jeremiah was beaten, imprisoned, and his priestly family and others plotted to murder him.

I was reminded of people's responses to prophets after I heard Rachel Martin interview the journalist and author David Wallace-Wells. I myself did not want to believe what Wallace-Wells was saying. I did not want to accept the coming judgment on humanity, especially the developed nations, for our greed and worship of the gods of excess and spoliation of our planet. To say that Wallace-Wells'

new book, *The Uninhabitable Earth; Life After Warming*, is a prophecy of destruction hardly conveys its message forcefully enough.

Wallace-Wells reports: "More than half of all of the fossil fuel emissions that we've ever put into the atmosphere have come in the last 25 years, which means that we've now done more damage to the climate than in all of the millennia before . . . We were sort of taught the problem was really about sea level and coastlines. We're starting to see that climate change is really an all-enveloping threat, which promises to transform, probably deform every life lived on the planet in some way.

It turns out that 2 degrees, the threshold of catastrophe, looks basically like our floor for warming rather than our ceiling. And so we really need to start thinking about what the impacts will be at 2 1/2, 3 and even 4 degrees of warming. The absolute worst-case scenario is that the planet becomes uninhabitable. . . . So end of the century, the U.N. says we're going to be at about 4.3 degrees of warming if we don't change course. 4.3 degrees of warming would mean \$600 trillion in damages from climate impacts. Six hundred trillion dollars is double all of the wealth that exists in the world today. . . . We would have places in the world that could be dealing with six climate natural disasters simultaneously. . . . [The] U.N. [conservatively] estimates we're dealing with 100 million climate refugees by 2050.

That is our best-case scenario. So when I talk about being optimistic, I'm talking about a range that starts at a death toll of 150 million people and extends to a world 4 degrees warmer where we would have, eventually, hundreds of feet of sea level rise, horrible impacts on agriculture, and public health [crises] beyond our comprehension.

If you had to imagine a threat large enough to really call into being a true network of global cooperation, climate change would be it. It's all-encompassing. It challenges the lives of everybody everywhere on the planet. And yet, it's really reaching a crisis point as we're all retreating from our international agreements and commitments.

One quite alarming possibility is the one that we're seeing today, which is that nations recoil. Another possibility is that we will be . . . called into a kind of brotherhood, sisterhood where we realize that we're all dealing with this threat together, we all bear some responsibility for it and we should do everything we can collectively to deal with it. But I don't think it's a safe bet that we'll end up in that happy place." ["Uninhabitable Earth' Spotlights 3 Climate Change Misunderstandings", 02/19/2019, Morning Edition, <https://www.npr.org/2019/02/19/695874069/-uninhabitable-earth-draws-attention-to-3-major-misunderstandings-about-climate.>]

No one likes bad news or a nag, a prophet. But as people who care about their future on Earth and their children's future, and especially as religious people, we absolutely must wake up to the awful reality of climate change and resolve together to do all we can about it. We must insist that anyone who asks for our votes to elect her or him to public office make climate change a centerpiece of her or his policy initiatives, with a plan to implement the imperative changes to minimize the destruction we have brought about. It is past time for us and the world to heed the collective prophetic voices of scientists and other reasonable, knowledgeable people over the din of those who are ignorant, uncaring, or greedy. I'll see you in church.

Yours in our faith,

*Terry*



## Our Passover Seder ~ A Wonderful Evening of Celebrating Freedom!

*Susan Lee Walling*

The Seder was held on Saturday, April 20, 2019; this was the second night of Passover, an eight day Jewish holiday. Forty-six members and 4 guests took part in the celebration, held in our social hall. The number seemed just right, as we had plenty of room for people to socialize and comfortably access buffet tables.

The Seder committee was terrific in planning, preparing food and working to set-up, serve and clean-up. Some participated in the Seder service including Rich Manalis and Susan



SEDER PLATE showing traditional foods which represent the exodus of the Jewish people from Egypt.

Lee Walling, co-chairs, who revised a Secular Humanist Hagaddah and led the Seder service along with Terry Sims as well as Claudia Czczyk, who read the four questions; John Cline, Berta and George Czczyk; Sylvia Manalis; Monica Gentry; Ken Saunders; Judy Reynolds; and Bob Walling (who opened the door for Elijah). Some of the congregation's members helped serve the meal. A great big thank you to all who volunteered!

Many who attended had never been to a Passover Seder and commented on how much they enjoyed the Seder - both the food and the information gleaned from the telling of the story of freedom as the Jews fled from Egypt as well as the freedoms we enjoy today. We were also reminded of the slavery that persists in the world today. And several new Israeli and Yiddish words were learned.

Some other highlights of the Seder included a great selection of traditional Jewish and popular as well as Israeli music played before-hand and during the meal as well as the songs we sung during the Seder. We thank John Cline and Bob Walling for this. Traditional Seder food was served at the Seder, prepared by several committee members using traditional recipes

And last but not least, after all expenses a net of \$339.60 was added to the UUC budget.

*Shalom - Peace!*

## Musings from the Loft!

Debby Bullins, Music Director



I spent last week in New York City supporting my grandson and his bandmates, members of the Flathead Ellington Project, as they participated in the Essentially Ellington Festival. The annual Essentially Ellington High School Jazz Band Competition & Festival is one

of the most innovative jazz education events in the world. Each year, high school musicians from across North America travel to New York City to spend three days immersed in workshops, jam sessions, rehearsals and performances at the “House of Swing,” Frederick P. Rose Hall, home of Jazz at Lincoln Center. Over 6,600 jazz bands are currently members of the program. Last fall, each band was sent eight new transcriptions of the music of Duke Ellington, specially published for this program. Each band had to submit recordings of these pieces for consideration, ultimately finalists are chosen, and a winner is announced at the completion of the event. The band members attend workshops, master classes with the most renowned jazz musicians in the world.

The experience is life changing for these young musicians. FEP performed at the National Jazz Museum in Harlem, experienced a jazz club with Grammy nominated musicians performing, ate soul food and soaked up all the sounds, vibe, culture and diversity that the program embraces.

Since EE’s inception, Jazz at Lincoln Center has distributed more than 235,000 charts to more than 6,600 schools and has reached more than 650,000 students in 55 countries. EE’s support of music education, especially jazz education, is invaluable as they strive to keep music alive in our schools and in each student’s lives.

Wynton Marsalis, Musical Director of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, world-renowned trumpeter, composer, and director of jazz studies at The Julliard School, put it best...

*“Jazz music is America’s past and its potential, summed up and sanctified and accessible to anybody who learns to listen to, feel, and understand it. The music can connect us to our earlier selves and to our better selves-to-come. It can remind us of where we fit on the timeline of human achievement, an ultimate value of art.”*

## RE Report

Lisa Lawrence, DRE

Helloooooo, summer!



RE classes are on hiatus until September, but don’t be a stranger, because children’s religious education’s got some fun stuff going on. Welcome to “Summer Sundays”! Summer Sundays are all about relaxation, enjoyment and friendship. Children of all ages may attend our supervised, summer

childcare between 10:00-11:30 a.m. each Sunday between now and September.

Each week activities will rotate between crafts, games, and a short curriculum program featuring stories by Dr. Seuss, called “Dr. Seuss-UU Style.” Class on these days will feature selected Dr. Seuss stories and discuss how they relate to the 7 Principles.

To get week by week information about RE events, classes and activities please visit <https://www.facebook.com/uucsurprisefamily/posts/> or do a search for “UUC Surprise Family Page” on Facebook.

Seeking 2 high school students to provide childcare and teach in our preschool room at the Unitarian Universalist Church Surprise. Hours are every other Sunday from 10:00 until 12:00 and occasional special events. Must have good communication skills, experience with children, be playful and RELIABLE. Membership is not necessary. Please contact [uucslisal@gmail.com](mailto:uucslisal@gmail.com) for more details. Looking to start qualified individuals immediately.



©Photo by Lisa Lawrence

## Something New for Announcements

*Rev. Terry Sims*

As announcements have multiplied during our busiest time at church (January through April), some of you have reminded me that most of us do not come to worship services to hear announcements, no matter how important they are. This church year, announcements have taken up as much as 13 minutes at the beginning of our worship service, which I do my best to keep to an hour. In such situations, to keep the service from running too long, I have made the decision to cut some planned portions of the service such as hymns, readings, and/or the sermon. Members have also pointed out that with some people still getting settled in the pews during the first few minutes, oral announcements at the beginning may not be heard or as effective.

Coincidentally, a member has generously donated another large flat screen TV to the church. That is going to be mounted on the Social Hall wall to the right of the sanctuary doors as you look toward the pulpit from the Social Hall. The plan is to have the flat screen mounted on an arm that can be extended and will allow the TV to be swiveled for use during gatherings by various groups in our Social Hall. As the solution to having most announcements made orally at the beginning of the worship service, we also intend to use the flat screen as an announcement board, beginning in September, 2019.

I wanted to let you know of this change now so that we all have an opportunity to prepare for it. It will be an adjustment, but the benefits of keeping our service dedicated only to worship will be worth it, and I believe it will be at least as effective as making announcements once orally at the beginning of services.

What this will mean is that, starting in September, 2019, people who have an event will need to prepare their written announcement and get to it to Kathryn, our church administrator, no later than Wednesday. That is the same as our current deadline for announcements that will continue to be emailed to the congregation. There will be no opportunities for last-minute additions later in the week because Kathryn will need to prepare the announcements for the flat screen at the same time. For events that involve the entire church, e.g. the

Auction, Annual Meeting, or Generous Giving Campaign, I may occasionally decide to make an oral announcement before the worship service begins. However, I anticipate that will rarely happen. Again, if your event is not one of the rare ones I choose to announce orally, please understand that is not a reflection on the importance of your event, but instead only an attempt to reserve our weekly worship hour each week for that unique purpose. Thank you for your understanding and efforts to make this change work well.

## Tax Free Donations to UU from IRA. 403(b), or 401(k)

*Bob Walling*

This is one time it pays to be old (over 70 ½). Want to make a tax free donation to UUC (and other 501(c)3 charities? You can through an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) as long as you are older than 70 ½. Your donation can replace in whole or part your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) or be in excess of it up to \$100,000 annually.

Don't have an IRA, but have a 403(b), 401(k) or other Tax Sheltered Annuity that you are taking RMDs from? You may be able to roll the gift amount into an IRA and make the Charitable QCD gift. Confused or have questions, call or talk to Bob Walling at 623.573.5942 (Bob is a former Certified Financial Planner™ and makes all of his UUC and other charitable gifts through this strategy.)

## 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 Sharon Beard (623-826-3365), Joan Carlson (623-537-9449) 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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**Please have information for the Newsletter submitted by Noon on the 15th of each month to the Editor, Charlie Mannino at [uucsnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:uucsnewsletter@gmail.com)**

# The Monthly Book Report

MaryAnne Balzer

Looking for some summer reading? Your UU Surprise Library is open for business even over these upcoming months. Find your next read on the shelves and simply follow the check-out procedures posted on the small desk. Trying to remember the book you were interested in? Over 1.5 years of these newsletter columns are posted on the wall by the Social Hall door. Have questions? Need help? Contact me at 303-589-5729 call/txt. Here are three books you may find interesting:

***“Breaking Down the Walls,”*** subtitled ‘50 Courageous and Successful Years’, by Norma Yeager, number 301.41YAE. The author “stayed true to herself as she rose through the ranks of the financial world. She shares a lifetime of courage, strength, and perseverance. A pioneer and mentor for women, she broke through ‘the glass ceiling’ long before the term was even invented. The book title is an understatement. This is one unstoppable person, still setting the bar for the “you go girl” age. Fearless, courageous, independent, and even fierce, the author never gave up in spite of the odds.” From the Amazon 4.5-star reviews.

***“Common Fire,”*** subtitled ‘Leading Lives of Commitment in a Complex World’ by Laurent Parks Daloz, number 302.14DAL. “A perceptive, groundbreaking analysis of inspired lives. This is a guidebook for the soul.

A truly refreshing book. In a day when the political and spiritual air has grown stale with cynicism, discouragement, and indirection, this beautifully written, penetrating study could not be more welcome or valuable. No one who cares about nurturing social commitment in others can fail to be informed and inspired by this remarkable and surprisingly practical book.” An Amazon 4-star review.

***“Share This!”***, subtitled ‘How YOU Will Change the World with Social Networking’, by Deanna Zandt, number 302.3ZAN. The author “is right on target—social media is a new frontier for social justice. The world may indeed be a better place if we all tell our stories authentically and fearlessly and listen to one another with open hearts. When she writes that sharing is daring, she expresses the logic of the age, where a shift from hoarding to sharing can provide incredible social leverage.” A 4-star Amazon review.

Enjoy a great day spent with a terrific UU Surprise read!

## Transportation Resources:

### **Valley Metro Dial a Ride - 602-716-2100**

To use *Valley Metro Dial a Ride* you must be 65 or over or ADA certified. The ride costs \$4.00 each way to the doctor or grocery store. To check on eligibility for this program call 623-222-1500. Valley Metro also provides a program called *Ride Choice*. People who qualify for this program pay only \$3.00 for a one way trip costing up to \$21.00. You must be 65 or over or ADA qualified. To enroll call Valley Metro at 602-716-2100.

### **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 one 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 six months. This applies to people living in Surprise.

### **Northwest Valley Connections - 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](http://NorthwestValleyConnect.org).

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

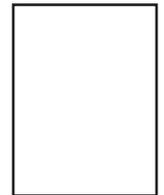
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40th Anniversary 1975 - 2015



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](mailto:uucsaz2@gmail.com).*

## Sermon Titles For June 2019

*The Theme for his month is "Transcendence"*

### 6/2 – Amy St. Peter.....Our Church in Our Words

Our faith community is made of the people who share their spiritual journey with us. Our members, visitors and friends define who we are as a church. This sermon will reflect the voices of the congregation through feedback offered via a survey conducted in April 2019.

### 6/9 – Dr. Mary Logan Rothschild ..... The Power of One and the Necessity of Community

In looking at the story of Jeanne Manford, who was called by love to support her gay son, we see clearly the power of one and the building of a community, even in times incredibly hostile to LGBTQ people.

### 6/16 – Maggi Mahan ..... Dumbo, Bumblebee, and George Bailey

Three movie characters rise above, change shape/function, and move forward. What do they tell us about Transcendence, Transformation, and Transition?

### 6/23 – General Assembly Broadcast ..... Charlie and Cathy Mannino – Worship Leaders

Come experience the largest annual worship gathering of UU's in the comfort of our own sanctuary!

### 6/30 – Dr. Melanie Cloonan-Schulte... Transcending Life's Vicissitudes: Lessons From A Teacher, A Tailor, and Hemingway

This sermon is about using the pain in life to make us "softer" rather than "harder" and how this increase in empathy and flexibility is a form of strength. I'll use data from literature, medicine, and real-life experiences to explore how this works.