

# Unitarian Universalist Church Newsletter

17540 N. Avenue of the Arts, Surprise, AZ 85378-2581

Phone: 623.875.2550 // [www.uusurpriseaz.org](http://www.uusurpriseaz.org) // Email: [uucsaz2@gmail.com](mailto:uucsaz2@gmail.com)

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**Minister:** Rev. Terry Sims

**Minister Emeritus:** Rev. Dr. Walt F. Wieder

**President:** Pat Lindgren



40th Anniversary 1975 - 2015

**Newsletter Editor:** Charlie Mannino

[uucsnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:uucsnewsletter@gmail.com)

**Printing:** Kathryn Pabich

October 2019

## From The Minister's Desk

**O**n August 2 this summer, I was privileged to provide the English part of a wedding ceremony for my friend Torsten and his husband, Florian, in Dresden, Germany. The many wedding activities went on for about 14 hours and



were a great deal of fun. I was glad to be there to help the happy couple celebrate the beginning of this new part of their lives together.

The next day, we took a tour of Dresden. Walking downtown in this vibrant city, I was again impressed with how we, our relationships, that city,

and our world move from one state into another and another, molding our histories of tragedy and triumph.

During the last days of World War II, from February 13 until February 15, 1945, 1,249 heavy American and British bombers dropped over 3,900 tons of high-explosive bombs and incendiary devices on Dresden, devastating the center of this cultural city of Europe. Around 25,000 civilians died. Debates still rage about whether such devastating Allied bombing of the city was necessary for the war effort and what purpose it served. An RAF memo issued to airmen on the night of the attack indicated that a secondary purpose of the raid was to “show the Russians when they arrive [at Dresden] what [the British] Bomber Command can do.” [[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bombing\\_of\\_Dresden\\_in\\_World\\_War\\_II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bombing_of_Dresden_in_World_War_II).]

In the center of the main square had stood the Lutheran “Church of our Lady,” Die Frauenkirche, a large, 18th-century domed church that was

“regarded as the finest baroque building north of the Alps.” [<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2005/oct/31/arts.secondworldwar>.] After standing through two days and nights of the Allies bombing, the extreme heat of the fires throughout the city (1,830° Fahrenheit) finally caused the “huge stone dome to topple, leaving only small sections of two walls and an alt[ar], amid a pile of rubble 55-feet high . . .” [<https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/dresden-church-rebuilt-from-wwii-ashes/>.]

“Rebuilding the Baroque masterpiece was out of



the question following the devastating war. Officials in East Germany left it as a memorial to the fallen in war. The blackened stones would lie in wait in the center of the city for the next 45 years. It was not until the fall of the Berlin Wall and the reunification of Germany in the 1990s that people began to dream of resurrecting the old skyline of Dresden with its crown, the bell-shaped dome that rose higher than a football field over the city.”

“A citizens’ initiative founded by Dresden musician Ludwig Güttler began raising the \$200 million needed to rebuild the church. Thousands of

watches containing tiny fragments of Frauenkirche stone were sold, and people from other nations got involved. The new golden cross that [now] tops the dome was funded by the British people and the House of Windsor[. It] was made, using the original 18th-century techniques, by a British silversmith whose father was on one of the airplanes that dropped bombs on the city. The cross that once topped the dome, now twisted and charred, stands to the right of the new altar.” [[https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/dresden-church-rebuilt-from-wwii-ashes/.](https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/dresden-church-rebuilt-from-wwii-ashes/)]

On October 30, 2005, Die Frauenkirche was re-consecrated. The magnificent interior of the new church looks like this.

I was awed by the upper parts of this monument



to reconciliation, peace, and rebirth. But then we went into the lower part. “The crypt of [the former] Frauenkirche served as a burial place in the 18th century. . . . During the destruction of the church, however, only one single burial chamber remained unscathed. The location of the coffins in the walled graves [there] was largely preserved.” Within the rebuilt, architecturally simple and stunning vaulted chambers of the Lower Church, lie next to the remnants of the old structure. “Particularly striking . . . is the [new] monumental stone altar that was crafted by the Indian-born Jewish sculptor Anish Kapoor out of black Irish limestone.” It stands in the center of the Lower Church, directly below the altar in the Upper Church. . . . [T]he Lower Church has become a place of silence, contemplation, personal devotion and prayer. To this end, the artistic design of the five chapels has a “central theme” – “destruction and renaissance”. [<https://www>.

[frauenkirche-dresden.de/en/architecture/.](https://www.frauenkirche-dresden.de/en/architecture/)]

As my sister and I left the Lower Church, she pointed out an elderly couple to me. In contrast to the young couple we had just witnessed getting married the day before, the elderly couple before us appeared to have spent decades together. They were seated beside each other in the first pew in front of the black limestone altar, silently holding hands in what seemed to me to be shared prayer or meditation.

I mourned again the terrible destruction of which we are capable; war and the ripping of the fabric of humanity; lives and loves, art and holy spaces, crushed into rubble. And in the midst of my mourning, observing the simple act of those two people holding hands, worshipping together in that marvelously reconstructed church, I was reminded that we are also resilient, hopeful, capable of transformative love, of rebuilding ruined lives, of forgiveness, of working together to create and recreate beauty. I’ll see you in church.

Yours in our faith,

*Terry*



## Member Honored

One of our church members, Janet Murphy, was chosen as an Anam Cara winner by the Irish Cultural Center. Anam Cara means “soul friend” in the Irish language. The presentation will be made at the Anam Cara Emerald Anniversary Gala for their exemplary contribution to the local Irish community on October 19th, 2019 at the Irish Cultural Center & McClelland Library in Phoenix. Be sure to wish Jan congratulations.



**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

Well faithful readers, here is our second installment of new books being added to your UU Surprise Library. Be sure to watch your Church e-blasts for information on the new book fair and check-out availability!

***“Justice on Earth,”*** by Manish Mishra-Marzetti. Fourteen activist ministers and lay leaders apply analysis to the environmental crisis, revealing how systems of oppression intersect and contribute to ecological devastation.

***“A Queer History of the United States,”*** by Michael Bronski. This book explores how LGBTQ people have always been a part of our national identity, contributing to the country and culture for over 400 years.

***“This Day in UU History,”*** by Frank Schulman. A treasury of anniversaries and milestones marking significant events in UU faith every day of the year.

***“Glad to be Human,”*** by Kaaren S. Anderson. A book of meditations. Moments of sacred clarity are illuminated by wry, kind humor; giving the reader a warm sense of compassion, humility and reverence.

***“Breaking Free,”*** by Marilyn Sewell. A groundbreaking anthology for women searching for spiritual guideposts to the second half of life.

***“The Overloaded Liberal,”*** by Fran Hawthorne. A book about shopping, investing, parenting, and daily dilemmas in an age of political activism.

***“55, Underemployed & Faking it,”*** by Elizabeth White. (the title says it all—mgb)

***“Miles of Dreams,”*** by Vanessa Rush Southern. By popular demand, the author returns with a new collection of meditations for personal and congregational use.

***“Bless All Who Serve,”*** by Matthew Tittle. Sources of hope, courage and faith for military personnel and their families from many traditions.

*Have a blessed day shared with a great UU read!*

## Support the Outlaw Dirty Money Voter Initiative

Michael C. Piper

Nine 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 from 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 full information, including who is spending money to influence our votes. That is why I’m gathering signatures to put an Arizona constitutional amendment on next year’s general election ballot.

This non-partisan amendment effort, led by former Attorneys General Terry Goddard and Tom Horne, says Arizonans have a right to know where the money in politics comes from. It would require those who spend more than \$20,000 to influence statewide races (or \$10,000 in local races) to report the original source of their funding.

To learn more, or to back the campaign, please see the [outlawdirtymoney.com](http://outlawdirtymoney.com) website. If you would like to voice your support for putting this proposed amendment on the November 2020 election ballot, I’ll have petitions available for your signature in the Social Hall before and after upcoming Sunday services.

Let’s make 2020 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 2020. With your help, we can do this.

## Musings from the Loft!

*Debby Bullins, Music Director*



October is upon us and that means your UUC Surprise Choir is in full swing, bringing their special talents to worship. We would like to extend a special invitation to all who love music to join us in the loft. All ages are welcome and no previous experience is required! We rehearse on Sunday mornings before service from 9:00 – 10:00 am. We are a fun loving, welcoming group. Contact me at [uucsmusic@gmail.com](mailto:uucsmusic@gmail.com) if you want more information or come and talk to me anytime.

**Rise early on November 17** when we will welcome the *Hakuna Matata Children's Choir* for a Special Music Event beginning at 10:00 a.m. Hakuna Matata Children's Choir is made up of children from Kenya East Africa.



Most of these children are from the slums and from a very poor background. Connect with a Child Children's Choir is dedicated to spreading love, hope and joy while raising awareness for the desperate plight of orphans and other vulnerable children. The non-profit, Connect With A Child, [connectwithachild.org](http://connectwithachild.org), includes programs that support orphanages, drill wells to provide clean drinking water for the community and is devoted to helping provide education to many poor and orphaned children in Kenya. The choir is in the U.S. to try raise funds and resources to help build their school in Kenya.

Their colorful clothing, pounding drums and sweet voices demonstrate their hope and dream for a brighter future. Their inspirational stories of

resilience have instilled hope in the hearts of all those who have seen them perform.

*Hakuna Matata Children's Choir* only consists of children that have been sponsored by different families who gave them the opportunity to better their future life through education over the years. Accompanied by a team of adults, the Choir presents Connect with a Child's vision and mission in every place they visit. The experience they acquire from travelling around the world gives the children exposure to other cultures broadening their worldview. It also gives them confidence and boldness and helps them rise up out of their own situations of sadness and despair.

Please come join the experience and support their cause.

## BUUK Circle

*Julie Wambach*

BUUK Circle meets 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](mailto:azwambach@icloud.com).

October 15, 2019 - "*Tribe: On Homecoming and Belonging*" by Sebastian Junger.

Junger points to the levels of depression and loneliness among us today brought on by the difficulty in finding a group we can call our own. "Combining history, psychology, and anthropology, TRIBE explores what we can learn from tribal societies about loyalty, belonging, and the eternal human quest for meaning."

## 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*.

## Autumnal Greetings, Congregation!

*Lisa Lawrence, DRE*



Children's RE classes are back in session! I'm reaching out to the congregation because after assigning all parents volunteer dates, we are still short classroom assistants. We are hoping to have a great year with well staffed classrooms and we really need your help. Please take a look at the volunteer and classroom

descriptions and select an option:

### Teaching Assistant Description

There needs to be two adults in every classroom for safety, classroom control, and assistance with projects, stories and discussion. There is no prep for this position.

### Grades K-5th

*The Lessons of Dr. Seuss*

Children and adults alike have been captivated by the tales of Dr. Seuss' imaginative worlds. But many of Dr. Seuss' most beloved classics are more than just catchy rhymes and poems; they often wrestle with serious philosophical and moral dilemmas. Interwoven with UU rituals and principles, this class will examine themes such as: equality, diversity, abuse of power, justice, environmental stewardship, tolerance, gratitude, hope, transformation and kindness.

### Grades 6th and Up

*EUUREKA!*

This class is intended to put our youth on the path to discovery; discovery about themselves, discovery about the world and discovery about what our 7 principles look like in everyday life. Within a UU formatted classroom, youth will view carefully curated Ted-Ed videos and discuss content.

I am looking for a commitment of 3 to 5 Sundays between now and May. Between the thought-provoking lessons and the children's enthusiasm, you can't go wrong. Please contact Lisa Lawrence at [uucslisal@gmail.com](mailto:uucslisal@gmail.com) with your classroom and commitment choice and I will be in touch.

## 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.

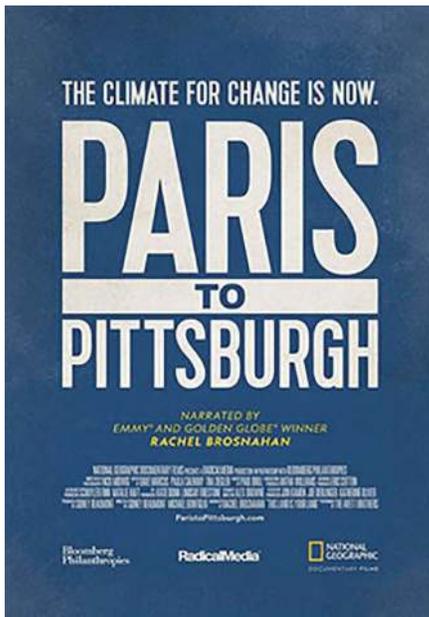
Don't have an IRA, but have a 403(b), 401(k) or other Tax Sheltered Annuity that you are taking RMDs from? You may be able to roll the gift amount into an IRA and make the Charitable QCD gift. Confused or have questions, call or talk to Bob Walling at 623.573.5942 (Bob is a former Certified Financial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

### *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.





Join us for a free screening of  
**Paris to Pittsburgh**

Saturday, October 19th

5:00 P.M. to 7:30 P.M.

Unitarian Universalist Church Surprise

17540 N. Avenue of the Arts

Surprise, AZ 85378

**Free Popcorn and Refreshments!**

Join us for a FREE screening of Paris to Pittsburgh, a new film from National Geographic, produced by RadicalMedia in partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies -- narrated by Emmy® and Golden Globe® Award-winning actress and activist Rachel Brosnahan (“The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel”). This film is being offered through Interfaith Power and Light to draw faith communities together to inspire local community action to heal the climate for the benefit of all.

From coastal cities to America’s heartland, Americans are demanding and developing real solutions in the face of climate change. As the weather grows more deadly and destructive, they aren’t waiting on Washington to act. Learn about their incredible stories in Paris to Pittsburgh, and be inspired to create change in your own community!



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current information**  
[www.uusurpriseaz.org](http://www.uusurpriseaz.org)

**Unitarian  
Universalist Church  
of Surprise**

A Progressive, Inclusive Faith Community

WELCOME



## 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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## 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*

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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.

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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 October 2019**

*The Theme for this month is Democracy*

### **10/6 – Rev. Terry Sims ..... Why Democracy Matters for Our Souls**

Why should we Unitarian Universalists concern ourselves with democracy in a Sunday morning worship service? Because we know about commitment to an ideal. And because in doing our part to save democracy, we might just save our spiritual selves.

### **10/13 – Rev. Terry Sims .....For All the People**

Speaking in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln declared in his Gettysburg Address that “government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.” Maybe Lincoln did not think it necessary to include the word “all” in his resounding epistrophe. But it makes a profound difference whether all people are included in our ideal of democracy.

### **10/20 – Rev. Terry Sims ..... Some Good in the World Worth Fighting For**

The truth about democracy is that it is always messy, frequently frustrating, and dependably depressing. But it is also true that it is an inspiring ideal that calls for the best in our individual selves and all of us together. That’s something worth fighting for.

### **10/27 – UUJAZ Sunday.....Rev. Elizabeth Nguyen**

“Join us for a justice-themed service from UUJAZ, led by Rev. Elizabeth Nguyen: Boston-based organizer, UU minister, and former Senior Strategist for Side With Love, with music from Phoenix Women’s Chorus. Let us ground ourselves in community care and fortify for the road ahead in working for collective liberation.”