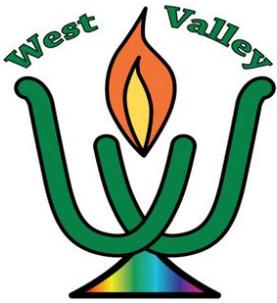


WVUU Times

June 2020

West Valley Unitarian Universalist Church



WEST VALLEY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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Gavel Talk

Emily Whitmore, President
West Valley UU Church
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This is my last Gavel Talk as WVUUC Board President. Looking back on “This Year in WVUUC,” I am astounded by what we have accomplished, even under these unfortunate circumstances. We’re truly “The Little Congregation That Could.”

My thanks go to the Board members for their help and patience with me and my harebrained ideas that often went nowhere; to David Moore, our newsletter editor, especially because I was frequently (and currently) late in sending him these columns; to the Worship

Services committee who managed to find speakers week after week without missing a beat; and to our Leadership committee for working so hard to fill the open Board and Committee positions for the upcoming year.

And to anyone I failed to mention, just know the church could not continue without your hard work and dedication. I am in awe of each and every one of you.

I guess the question on everybody’s mind is “Where do we go from here?” and more specifically “When will services resume?” Well, based on a recommendation from UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, the answer is emphatically, “Not anytime soon.”

(continued on page 3)

Sunday Services

In-person Sunday Services are cancelled
for COVID-19 mitigation.

Go to <https://soundcloud.com/user-552693741> or westvalleyuu.org
for recordings of speakers' reflections.

June 7: **Hinduism**

Ma Udaysree

Why I became a Hindu. (Go to MaUdaysree.com to acquaint yourself with this Sunday's presenter.)

June 14: **Juneteenth**

Rev. Cleophus Mims

A reflection on the significance of the cultural holiday, Juneteenth.

June 21: **Summer Solstice**

Rev. Darren Reale

We will be discussing various Summer Solstice traditions, how it can bring spiritual meaning into our lives, why it is important to celebrate, and why it is a special time to honor our fathers.

June 28: **UUA General Assembly Virtual Worship Service**

<https://www.uua.org/ga/program/schedule>

Join the UUA General Assembly for Sunday Morning Worship at 10:00 am followed by Coffee Hour. The service will include a collection for the Tomaquag Museum, an indigenous museum featuring an extensive collection and archive of Southern New England tribal communities. Live stream is available at no cost.

Who We Are



West Valley Unitarian Universalist Church is affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association. We are a welcoming congregation whose mission is provide a safe place for celebrating diversity, drawing inspiration for living better lives, fostering social and environmental justice, and compassionately supporting each other in our spiritual searches.

We are a theologically diverse community who encourages you to seek your own spiritual path. We provide a caring environment for each adult and child to learn more about yourself and your place in the interdependent web of existence. Sunday services celebrate our community, challenge us intellectually, and engage us spiritually.



Gavel Talk

(continued from page 1)

The WVUUC Board and Worship Services Committee are in agreement that we should continue virtual services for a while longer.

There is some good news, though. The Board also agreed that we should start hosting Sunday services on Zoom. Hopefully, getting to see each others' faces and bringing back elements of the service such as chalice lightings and readings will help us navigate these

troubled waters a little easier. We are working on getting a congregational Zoom license set up now, with the goal of hosting our semi-annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 14 at noon on Zoom then having virtual video services going forward.

I miss you all, but I do look forward to seeing your faces on screen in the near future. Thank you for this opportunity to be Board President. It's been a wild ride!

WVUUC Spring Congregational Meeting

The Spring Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, June 14 at 12:00 noon via Zoom.

To attend, participants will need to download the free Zoom application to their iPhone, iPad, or computer. An invitation to attend will be sent to WVUU members prior to the meeting. To attend the meeting, click the link provided in the invitation.

The minutes from the fall and spring congregational meetings will be emailed to members by the secretary, Sandra Mahoney.

Agenda items include the following:

- (a) Election of Board officers and Committee chairs (for nominees, go to page 5 in this newsletter)
- (b) Budget for 2020-2021
- (c) Kitan living at church



May WVUUC Board Meeting Highlights

Sandra Mahoney s_1mahoney@cox.net

- President Emily Whitmore presided over the meeting. The meeting was held online and began at 11:11AM. The previous minutes by Secretary Sandra Mahoney were approved as written.
- Treasurer Mark Oelerking reported that members are mailing in their pledges, and he does not anticipate a shortage this month. His report was accepted. Mark then presented a budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. The Board approved the budget with one change, the addition of \$50 in funds for the R.E. program. We briefly discussed how much income could be anticipated this year from the Sunday plate, fundraising, and church rental. For now, those items are being left in the budget for the coming year. The budget will be presented to the congregation at the Spring Congregational Meeting on June 14.
- Rev. Cathy Corbin-Mannino has signed a contract to be our Pulpit Minister for the coming year.
- The Caring Committee has contacted 24 households for wellness checks.
- Facilities chair, Noel Johnson, reported he replaced a leaking sprinkler in the sanctuary. He will continue to schedule campus clean-ups to maintain our facilities and grounds.
- Pax Whitmore submitted a Technology Committee report indicating he has completed the transition of the websites to the new server where it is now secure. The westvalleyuu.org link will be directed to wvuuc.org. The site is hosted by GoDaddy.
- A survey was sent out regarding Kitan staying at the church, but only seven responses were received. It appears many members did not receive the survey.
- The Board recommended obtaining a license for Zoom through the UUA auspices. This will allow for longer meetings, more participants, and more features. The Board voted to begin scheduling Zoom Sunday Services (audio and video) once that is possible.
- The UUA will hold its regular General Assembly meeting from June 24 to 28; registration for the virtual meeting is \$150.00. Hopefully, many more will be able to attend the services, workshops, and business meetings since there will not be travel and hotel expenses. The WVUUC Board suggested Mandy Oviatt to be our delegate, if she can attend. No date was set for the next Board



Nominees for 2020 WVUUC Positions

Terry Mead terrycmead@gmail.com

President	Mandy Oviatt (one-year term)
President-elect/Vice president	Open (two-year term with one year as President)
Secretary	Valerie Lynch (two-year term)
Treasurer	Mark Oelerking (two-year term)*
Trustee at large	Noel Johnson (two-year term)
Caring Committee Chair	Diane D'Agostino (two-year term)
Endowment Committee	Two open seats**
Hospitality chair	Sharon Moore (two-year term)***
Membership chair	Emily Whitmore (two-year term)
Religious Education chair	Sharon Moore (two-year term)
Stewardship chair	Open (two-year term)
Technology Committee chair	Pax Whitmore (complete a two- year term in 2021)
Worship Services chair	Open (two-year term)
Newsletter Editor	Open****

*The Leadership Development Committee recommends that the Treasurer position be filled for a one-year term both to accommodate the desire of the incumbent candidate and to better stagger the two-year terms of the trustees. The position would be filled for a two-year term in 2021.

**The Endowment Committee consists of three members serving staggered three-year terms. It appears that the two vacancies would be for one- and three-year terms, respectively.

***The Leadership Development Committee recommends that the Hospitality Committee chair position be filled for a one-year term both to accommodate the desire of the incumbent candidate and to better stagger the two-year terms of the standing committees. The committee has identified a member willing to stand for election to a two-year term for the chair position in 2021.

****The Newsletter Editor position is part of the Membership Committee and has no fixed term under the WVUU Bylaws. Announcement of this opening is for informational purposes only. Anyone interested in the position should contact the current committee chair, Terry Mead, or the current editor, David Moore, for more information.

Additional nominations may be made at the Congregational Meeting. Anyone interested in serving in a position or wanting more information, should contact members of the Leadership Development Committee, Terry Mead, Melanie Maham and Theresa Reigadas.

UUJAZ

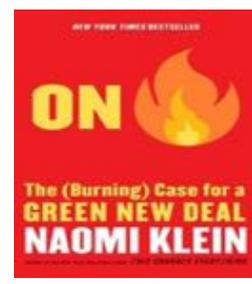
Justice in the Time of Pandemic

From the \$11,000 of #ShareMyCheck funds distributed to undocumented families to supplies driven to the Black Mesa community on the Navajo Nation, UU's have shown up and lived our values during this pandemic! Have you taken action for justice in the past few months? Please take our two-question survey by June 13. Links are also provided to participate now and then check your action off the list!
<https://forms.gle/Kw33z3YrkHntXXxf7>

UUJAZ Book Group

Friday June 19 12:00 p.m.

Join Rev. Tina Squire the third Friday of each month at noon for a book discussion. June will



feature *On Fire: The Burning Case for a Green New Deal*, just in time for author Naomi Klein's Ware Lecture at this year's GA. Sign up here:
<https://forms.gle/c9GCKkkmNPpGgR7ZA>

Hospitality

Sharon Moore leadmoore@gmail.com

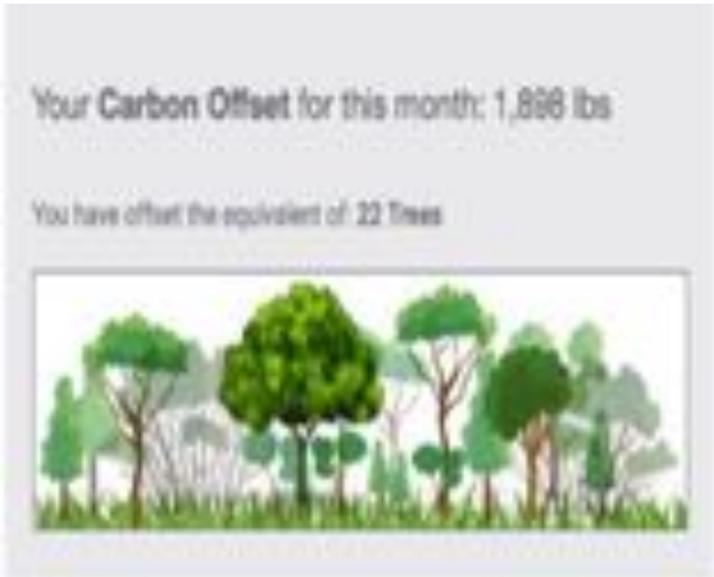
It has been a while since your WVUUC Hospitality team has been able to serve you.

We want you to know that we are looking forward to breaking bread together again

In the meantime, keep safe and stay well!

From: Roz Cook, Tom Begush, Morgan Oviatt, Kay Vogt, Dorothy Ward, Kitan Winans, Annette Darling, Theresa Reigadas, Diane D'Agostino, Debbie Barr, David Moore, and Sharon Moore.

The **Enphase Energy** solar panels installed on our WVUUC sanctuary roof are reducing our carbon footprint:



April Finances

markoelerking@gmail.com

Pledge income	\$2,310
Bank Mortgage	\$956
Member Mortgage	\$2,339
UUA APF	\$297
Prop/Liab Insurance	\$198
Water/Sewer	\$63

Thank you, everyone, for continuing your pledge payments in this time of Sunday Service suspension. WVUUC has been able to meet its ongoing expenses because of your generosity. And it makes my job as treasurer a whole lot easier. Thanks so much!

Getting to Know Melanie Maham

Sandra Mahoney s_1mahoney@cox.net

Melanie Maham grew up in Minot, North Dakota and was reared in the Lutheran Church. She met her husband, Kris, while she was a junior and he was a senior in high school. They were married in October 1996 and have been together over 24 years.

She and Kris have two daughters, Kristina (who attends NAU and is studying to be a physical therapist) and Lindsey (a tenth grader who will attend high school and Western Maricopa Educational Center next year).

Since Kris was in the Air Force, they moved quite a bit, having lived in Texas, New Mexico, Florida, and the Phoenix area. While stationed here in 2006, they grew to like this area. So when Kris retired in 2014, they chose to live here.

While living in the Phoenix area the first time, Melanie trained as a Certified Nursing Assistant at Good Samaritan Good Shepherd Hospital in Glendale. To broaden her skills, she worked as a traveling nursing assistant for a number of years. She was trained to work with

ventilators and was able to do that full time at a nursing home in Mesa for a number of years.

When they moved to Panama City, Florida, she worked in a nursing home and enjoyed that. Currently she works at Banner-Del Webb in Sun City West in the Observation Department of the Emergency Room.



Melanie was introduced to Unitarian Universalism through paganism. She enjoys nature and liked paganism. She had attended the UU Church in Surprise before moving to Florida. While in Florida she attended a smaller UU church where people seemed friendlier and more interested in getting to know one another. Upon returning to Surprise, she was less satisfied with the more

formal and larger church there. She looked up other churches on the internet and found West Valley.

She loved our relaxed atmosphere and our willingness to have a conversation, even with a newcomer. She is pleased with our services and joined soon after attending.

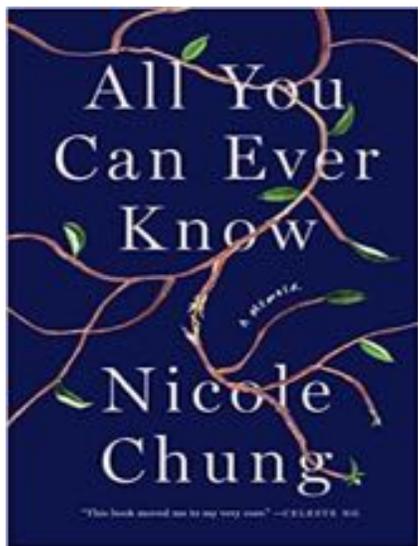
Melanie helps clean our church once a month. She also serves on the Leadership Development Committee with Terry Mead.

While not having any formal hobbies, Melanie loves to walk and hike. Her neighborhood is green and has lots of trees, so she enjoys wandering there and in the White Tank Mountains. She and Kris have hiked easy trails at the Grand Canyon and South Mountain.

Melanie currently has two dogs and three cats and has agreed to adopt another cat who a friend nursed back to health. This makes for a full house!

Media Review

Chung, N. (2018). *All you can ever know*. New York: Catapult Press.



Reviewed by Roz Cook

Most of us like to play to our strengths and make our best impression when we introduce ourselves to strangers. Yet in her book, Nicole Chung chooses to display her weaknesses and to label herself most clearly by the things that she is not. What defined her life most was the fact that she was not white and that she was not a wanted child—at least not wanted by her birth family.

Chung's bestselling book, *All You Can Ever Know*, is a graceful memoir of her life as a Korean child adopted by a white family.

When she is eight months pregnant herself, Nicole goes in search of her birth family in an attempt to understand the connections that truly make a family.

Nicole had a happy childhood in many ways. She knew she was adored by her parents and grandparents, but she was also lonely because she didn't quite fit in. She looked different as the only Asian in a small community and the only adopted child in her larger family. Nicole faced racism at a very young age when her school mates made fun of her unique facial features and complexion.

Nicole found a refuge in books and stories where her heroes could be misfits like herself. She wrote stories, too, with Asian heroines. But going to college was a game-changing event. She left her small town and ventured to a bigger city where she found many people who looked like her. Suddenly, she had found a space where she belonged and fit in.

All of us grow up in families where stories are told that we cling to and that we are not

supposed to question. Many of us grow up in religions where stories are told and we are not supposed to question. Nicole's adopted parents told her that it was meant to be that she came to live with them. She heard very clearly that she was not meant to look for her birth family or to ask questions about why they gave her up. In Nicole's birth family, the other children and family members were told that the child had died very soon after being born.

I saw many parallels to Nicole's challenges to fit in and find her place in the world as she searched for her birth parents and relatives to the way people seek a religious home. Sometimes the one you were raised in fits like a glove and there is no need to take it off and try on something different.

(continued on page 9)

Web Presence



Go to this online calendar for WVUU events:

westvalleyuu.org/events/calendar/



Keep up with WVUU church and member news, post comments, and share articles and photos with friends at these websites:

Facebook Group
facebook.com/groups/wvuuc

Facebook Fan Page
facebook.com/WestValleyUnitarianUniversalistChurch

Pin and browse UU-related visuals at this site:

pinterest.com/pin/242772236133017855/

UU Principles and Sources



Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote seven principles:

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and society at large;
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all; and
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Media Review

(continued from page 8)

In Nicole's case, she never felt completely at home in a family where no one looked like her, so she set out to find if there would be comfort and familiarity with faces more like her own.

Her journey is told in a very unsentimental style with many bumps in the roads, surprises, and ultimately no perfect answer to the question of who is family and who is not. Like religion, we can choose the one that matches our beliefs and vision, but we can never truly let go of where we came from.



STANDING ON THE SIDE OF

LOVE