

WVUU Times

February 2018

West Valley Unitarian Universalist Church



WEST VALLEY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

5904 W. Cholla St.
Glendale, AZ 85304
(623) 846-6004
wvuu5904@gmail.com
www.westvalleyuu.org

Board Of Trustees

President

Barry Linden
blinden@cox.net

Vice President

Diane D'Agostino
dmseneca@yahoo.com

Secretary

Roz Cook
rozcooksalot@gmail.com

Treasurer

Kathy Dugan
k.dugan@cox.net

At-Large

Noel Johnson
longroper623@gmail.com

Emily Whitmore
emilyawhitmore@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

David Moore
mooredavid06@gmail.com

Gavel Talk

Barry Linden, President
West Valley UU Church
blinden@cox.net



Why do you come to church? I would guess there are as many reasons as there are people attending.

Some come for the social life. When Sandra and I first moved to Phoenix, we didn't know anyone, and this was a way of meeting like-minded people. Since then my reasons for attending have evolved. I still enjoy the social interaction, but now there are other reasons.

I appreciate the sharing of values and hearing what others are doing to better the world. I learn new ways of living my values nearly every week. I draw inspiration for living a better life. In addition, I enjoy our music program and

being able to perform for such a welcoming audience. I enjoy the thoughtful sermons we have, the speakers who always give me new ways of seeing, and I like learning about other religions.

So why do you come to church? I would like you to be thinking about this. Next month as part of our annual canvass (think pledge drive without the tote bags), a canvasser will be talking with you about what the church means to you, what you get out of coming, what you like and don't like, and what speaks to you.

We have done this a number of times in the past, and it has been very rewarding for those doing the canvass as well as those who are being canvassed.

(continued on page 3)

Sunday Services

Sunday Services begin at 10:30 a.m.
followed by a light lunch and fellowship.

Religious education and child care are available for children ages 3 and up.

February Theme: *Perseverance*

February 4: **Side With Love**

Rev. Christiane Heyde

1

Rev. Christiane will explore our challenge of love, how to speak up for it and live it out in our lives.

February 11: **Perseverance and Living the Principled Life**

Sharon Moore

We are expected to live our UU principles. Let's examine them and discuss how to apply them in daily life as we persevere in living an ethical life.

February 18: **Pursuing Perseverance**

Rev. Christiane Heyde

Rev. Christiane will explore how to get through tough times and how to become a persevering person and community.

February 25: **Exploring Love in Black and White**

Roz Cook

In honor of Black History month, this talk will explore some of the challenges that race brings to our culture with a specific focus on relationships.

Sunday Drivers Needed

Thank you so very much to the people who help our non-drivers attend church on Sunday morning. Your efforts are much appreciated!

We have lost a couple of drivers recently, so two people near the 99th Ave. and Peoria cross-streets are looking for rides. If you can help out even one Sunday per month, please contact Maryke DesChamps at mwinkd@hotmail.com or [623.229.0052](tel:623.229.0052).

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)

I think this discussion should be done periodically as a way to check in with each other and see where our church is and where it needs to go.

We hope that people will donate and perhaps donate even more in this atmosphere, but a big reason for doing this is to help us reconnect with each other as UUs.

When you are approached by a canvasser, don't turn away or hold back by saying, "Oh, I'll just fill out the pledge form." Instead, welcome the discussion. You will get a lot out of it!



Treasurer's Corner

Kathy Dugan k.dugan@cox.net

December 2017 Financial Highlights

Total Operating Income - \$6,333

- Pledge Payments \$4,260
- Fundraising \$1,311 – includes December Flea Fair and some clipboard sales
- Sunday Plate \$395

Total Operating Expense - \$3,700

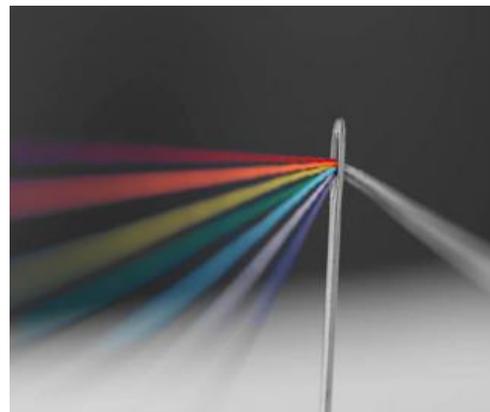
- Program Expenses \$515
- Personnel and Payroll \$871
- Administration Costs \$583
- Facilities \$975

Net Operating Income - \$2,632

Note: There were no interest payments due on member building loans for the month of December.

Capital Fund –Fundraising income for kitchen remodel - \$2,316

Common Threads



from Moses, J. (2002). *Oneness: Great principles shared by all religions*. New York: Ballantine Books.

Perseverance

As the stone mountain, firmly based, quails not before the tempest, but abides in its place, so also shall you abide in your resolution once resolved.

- Buddhism

Do not be impatient, and do not look for small advantages. If you are impatient, you will not be thorough. If you look to small advantages, you will never accomplish great things.

- Confucianism

The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to want.

- Judaism

Membership Matters

Jim Reay, Chair
jimreay@gmail.com

February conjures sweet memories of childhood Valentine's Day. Mrs. Williams guided my first grade class in the elaborate possibilities of decorating a shoebox for receiving valentines from fellow classmates. Brightly colored construction paper, blunt-nosed scissors, and white paste that tasted like Tums created some spectacular valentine collection receptacles.

I learned from Valentines Day that heart shaped candies and chocolates make the holiday sweeter, and I also learned respect as we were encouraged to give a valentine to every classmate. I purchased 25 valentines with envelopes for just a penny a piece -- only a 25-cent piece, as my dad used to call them -- to present a valentine to every classmate.

I'm happy that you are one of my "new class members." I want to send YOU a valentine because "Love is like swallowing hot chocolate before it has cooled off. It takes you by surprise at first, but keeps you warm for a long time." Thanks for being MY valentine.

May we as members and friends of this church strive to support each other through all situations and cherish the camaraderie of being a part of the West Valley UU family.



Circle Supper

Sharon Moore, Coordinator
leadmoore@gmail.com

Due to scheduling conflicts (we need more hosts!), there will be no Second Saturday Circle Supper in February. Mark the date for the March Circle Supper – it's March 10. Sign up for the March Circle Supper on February 25 or March 4.



Environmental Justice Workshop

- Happens at Throop Unitarian Universalist Church in Pasadena, CA.
- Lasts from Saturday night, July 14 to Sunday afternoon, July 22, 2018.
- Space for 25 multigenerational participants including youth (rising 9-12 graders), young adults, adults, and families with youth.
- Cost is \$550.00 per person for 8 days and includes all meals, lodging at the church, and local transportation. Air and ground transportation to the Throop Church is not included. Scholarships are available!
- Staff includes Eric Bliss, PWR Youth Specialist; Rev. Jaelynn Scott, Buddhist minister and UU Religious Educator; and Katie Covey, PWR Mission Trip Lead.
- Register at <https://register.pwruua.org/event-registrations/pwr-mission-trip/>
- Contact Katie Covey, PWR Mission Trip Leader, at katiecovey@gmail.com.
- For more information visit <https://www.uua.org/pacific-western/calendar/pswd/rore2-pwr-justices-journey?month=2018-07>

Justice in Action

Stacy Leard, Co-Chair

stacy.leard@gmail.com

Resources

Outlaw Dirty Money. Outlaw Dirty Money is an initiative led by Terry Goddard, former Phoenix mayor and Arizona Attorney General, to ban dirty, dark money from Arizona elections. This initiative will require major Arizona election donors to fully disclose their identities. Full disclosure permits us to know exactly who is trying to influence our votes.

Volunteers are needed to place this initiative on the ballot. Almost 300,000 signatures are required by November 2018. Volunteer to collect petition signatures, check signatures, and talk with friends about dirty money. You can sign up at <https://outlawdirtymoney.com/volunteer/>

For more information, go to https://www.facebook.com/outlawdirtymoney/?fref=gs&hc_location=group

SRP Board Elections. Did you know that if you are an SRP customer you can vote in SRP Board elections, which are held on the first Tuesday of April? Various progressive groups are attempting to insure that environmentally-friendly candidates are available to serve.

You can sign up here for an early ballot (all voting is by mail). <https://www.srpnet.com/elections/secure/earlyballot/2018earlyballot.aspx> . Be sure and check the PEVL box (permanent early voting list) so that you will always get a ballot. You can also get a paper ballot to mail in at this link (wait for it, a bit slow) <http://register.srpcleanenergy.org/>

Events

Environmental Day at the Arizona Capitol. Wednesday, February 7, 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We will be meeting with legislators in teams to discuss important environmental issues, bills, and more. No experience is necessary; training is provided. It is a fun, interesting, and meaningful day! Go to sierra.secure.force.com/events as well as azpra.org

UU Day at the Legislature. Monday, February 19, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Join other Unitarian Universalists from throughout Arizona at the State Capitol Monday, President's day, Feb. 19 to rally for social justice in Arizona. We will meet with legislators, talk with others about social justice issues, and have the opportunity to attend several workshops. Contact anne.schneider@asu.edu for more information.

Progressive Protests at Senators' Offices. Did you know progressive groups protest every week at Senator McCain and Flake's local offices?

- Mondays with McCain – protests every Monday from 12:00-1:00 at Senator McCain's office, 2201 E. Camelback Rd #115, Phoenix, AZ 85016

- Fridays with Flake – protests every Friday from 12:00-1:00 at 2200 E. Camelback Rd #120, Phoenix, AZ 85016

Flea Market

West Valley UU Church -- 4,
3284 W. Cholla St, Glendale, 95284 -- 4
(Northwest Corner of Cholla & 59th Ave) -- 4

Saturday, Feb 24th
8AM - 4PM



Children's activities!
Bake Sale!
Pie by the slice!
Navajo Tacos!
Hourly Raffle Prizes!

Multiple vendors selling a variety of items!

Are you a vendor interested in selling your items?!

Average space - table not provided - \$15.00 --

Average space - table provided - \$20.00 --

Large space - table provided - \$30.00 --

For more information --

CALL - 620-396-4065 -- E-Mail - www.uuonline@gmail.com!

Children's Religious Education

We have plans for the remainder of the RE year to study a different religion or spirituality one Sunday a month, and the other Sundays we will work on our social action projects which include:

- 1) Learning about soup kitchens and making food bags for people who are homeless.
- 2) Learning about food banks and collecting and distributing food to the food banks.

Middle Sunday School lessons also include managing supplies for our Emergency Hospitality Program for released detainees at the Greyhound bus depot.

Onna Johnson, Chair
omercerj@gmail.com



UU Principled Minutes

Sharon Moore leadmoore@gmail.com

In keeping with the goal of living our UU principles and not just reciting them, here are some practical applications for February.

Principle 1: The inherent worth and dignity of every person.

Fake it until you make it. If someone annoys you, make an effort to speak with and listen to that person rather than avoiding the person. Recognize others' inherent worth and dignity initially by interacting with them.

Principle 2: Justice, equity and compassion in human relations.

Be equally considerate to friends, family and strangers. Listen fully without judgment, and give each person your full attention (no texting, no phone calls, no seeming to be bored!). Use direct eye contact and keep your ears open to what they are saying.

Principle 3: Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.

Spirituality is a belief that a person is seeking a connection to the rest of existence, to something larger than the individual. That something larger, might be humanity, the universe, nature, or even God/Goddess. Talk after the service over lunch about what spirituality means to each of you. Ask questions and explore those beliefs more deeply.

Principle 4: A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

If you have the intention to raise your consciousness and state of awareness, you are on the right track. Intending to raise your consciousness will focus you on actually doing it.

Principle 5: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

We need to practice democracy as a way of truly proclaiming it. This means promoting a sense of diversity, not favoritism; a sense of persuasion, not coercion; a sense of inclusive language, not alienating jargon; a sense of humility, not arrogance. Be the change that you want to see.

Principle 6: The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.

Look people in the eye and smile when you pass them on the street or in the grocery store. Better yet, actually say, "Hello." Spread love, happiness, and acceptance wherever you go and to whomever you meet.

Principle 7: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Join an organized group dedicated to the protection of our public monuments and parks. There is strength in numbers, and these groups have the infrastructure to enact changes their members want. Consider The Sierra Club, The Nature Conservancy, The World Wildlife Fund, The Wildlife Conservation Society, The Natural Resources Defense Council, The Audubon Society, Oceana, The Jane Goodall Institute, or other advocacy groups.



Grading on a Continuum

Emily Whitmore emilyawhitmore@gmail.com

Let's face it, we all get worn down by the never-ending banality of everyday tasks.

My daughter, for example, loves to pull books off shelves. No matter how many books I pick up and re-shelve, there's another pile waiting for me the next time I turn around.

In some way or another, everybody feels trapped in their own personal version of director Harold Ramis' 1993 comedy *Groundhog Day*. Bill Murray's character, Phil Connors, is inexplicably forced to relive the same day over and over until he chooses to abandon his smug, self-centered outlook on life in favor of a philosophy of self-improvement and service to others.

For this reason, the movie's relatability pushes beyond everyday tedious household chores and shifts into a more metaphysical shared experience. Ramis said he has been approached by Buddhists, Christians, and Hasidic Jews, all finding connections to the movie in their respective faiths.

And the best part? They're all correct.

The movie is about mitzvot. It's about reincarnation. It's about Purgatory. It's about the meaning of life itself and our journey to become better people, making every minute of every day count.

This is exactly what Phil Connors realizes he has to do. The turning point for his

character comes when he finally decides to help a homeless man he'd ignored countless times before, only to watch him die by the end of the day no matter how many times he tries to save him.

From then on, Connors devotes his presumed immortality and gift of foresight to helping others in need. He catches a boy falling from a tree. He changes a flat tire for three senior citizens. He saves the mayor from choking on a piece of steak. He generally puts a smile on the face of every person he meets. He becomes the change in a day that never changes, and he finally earns his chance to see tomorrow.

So the next time I come across a pile of books on the floor, I have to remember they're not the exact same books every time, and I have the power to choose what kind of attitude I have while cleaning them up.

Because as the ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus said, "No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it's not the same river and he's not the same man."



James Whitmore, left, wearing a Bill Murray onesie while watching *Groundhog Day* on Feb. 2, 2014.

Natalie Whitmore, right, wearing a Bill Murray onesie while watching *Groundhog Day* on Feb. 2, 2017. Whoa, deja vu!

Getting to Know Bill Dugan

Sandra Mahoney

s_1mahoney@cox.net

Bill Dugan was reared in New York City and attended the Presbyterian church with his family throughout his childhood. After graduating high school, he worked as a messenger for the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. He worked his way up to a bank accounting supervisor for Bankers Trust Co. At one point, he bought a retail sales route and traveled to various businesses selling nuts and candies. After doing that for approximately five years, he and his wife, Kathy, decided in 1994 to leave New York City for sunny Phoenix.

Here Bill found temporary employment and then full-time bank accounting jobs. While working in a local bank, he volunteered with Junior Achievement, an organization that places local business people into classrooms to teach children about business. This experience changed his life as he decided to pursue a teaching certificate and become a teacher. Around this time Kathy became pregnant, so they decided Bill would attend college at night and become a stay-at-home dad. Upon graduating from ASU West, he began teaching U.S. history and government at

Sandra Day O'Connor High School, which he continues to this day.



Bill and Kathy were virtually unchurched as adults; they were married by a justice of the peace, and religion did not hold any special significance for them. However, Bill wanted some religious education and sense of community for their son, Tom, and Kathy heard about Unitarian Universalism from her sister. Since they lived in the West Valley, Bill stopped by WVUUC one day with Tom. As luck would have it, Kathy Abramowitz was working that day, and she enthusiastically told them about the RE program. Fifteen years later, Bill and Kathy still attend every Sunday.

Bill is very proud that Tom has been raised with UU values and is an open-minded young man with a solid foundation. Bill continues to be an active

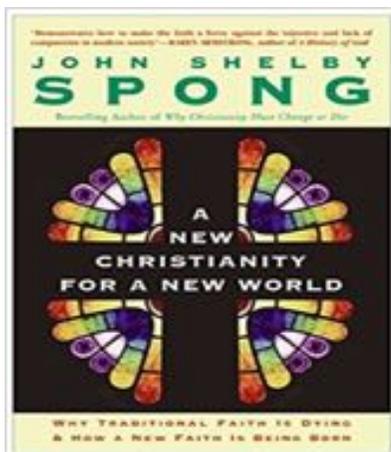
member at WVUU because it is a valuable part of his life. He enjoys learning new information at church, including hearing about different religions and practices. Throughout the years he has been involved with the RE program, board responsibilities, adventure club hikes, Sunday Service responsibilities, and presented sermons. Recently he joined Terry Mead and Barry Linden to start a Men's Fellowship group at church.

Bill and Kathy are avid hikers and love exploring the many trails in Sedona. For the past six months, he has been practicing yoga twice a week. Additionally, he started playing tennis again. He is an avid sports fan, enjoys watching and playing most sports, and follows pro football, baseball, and basketball. He also donates plasma and platelets to United Blood Services as he believes it is important to help others.

(continued on page 10)

Media Review

Spong, J. S. (2002). *A new Christianity for a new world: Why traditional faith is dying & how a new faith is being born*. San Francisco, CA: HarperOne.



Reviewed by Dorothy Ward

Bishop John Shelby Spong, bestselling author of *Why Christianity Must Change or Die*, writes that he is a Christian but not a fundamentalist.

I like the way he defines God in *A New Christianity for a New World*, not as a supernatural being or entity that affects human life. In the chapter, *A Place to Begin*, he lists many things that he does not believe -- things that I and many other UUs don't believe either.

He does not agree with the definition of a theistic God "as a being, supernatural in power, dwelling outside this world and invading the world periodically to accomplish the divine will." He says this God is dying in part because of our education and understanding of how the world works.

Spong says we are beyond theism, but not beyond God. He then writes a chapter called *The Original Christ: Before the Theistic Distortion*

and a most interesting chapter called *Changing the Basic Christian Myth*. He claims there was no good creation followed by a fall into sin that required a divine rescue. "There is only life seeking to survive at any cost and yearning to be called beyond its limits into being something more."

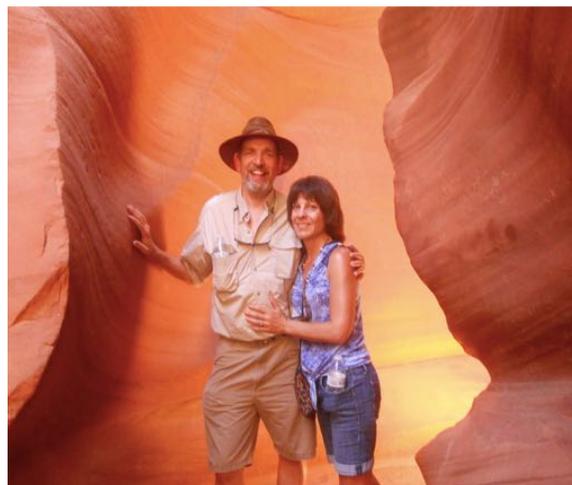
Bishop Spong discusses theological issues and sometimes finds himself in logical dead ends. Then he backtracks and starts over. Several chapters are on whether and how Christianity will survive in the future.

His writing style makes me feel that he is talking to me. I am glad to loan this book to anyone who calls me at 602-246-1246!

Getting to Know Bill Dugan

(continued from page 9)

Bill loves attending live theater productions and often purchases ticket plans with local theater companies. He has quite an impressive collection of Broadway show tunes and often listens to them while hiking or grading papers. He plays classical music in his classroom every day, and several students have responded positively.



Bill and Kathy Dugan

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.

Unitarian Universalist principles are drawn from six sources:

1. Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
2. Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
3. Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
4. Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
5. Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit; and
6. Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.