

ABOUT US



**West Valley Unitarian
Universalist Church**
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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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GO-TO PEOPLE

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Worship Services:

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Membership:

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Caring:

Elizabeth Skinner

Stewardship:

Judy Armstrong

Religious Education:

Shannon Bailes, children

Circle Supporters:

Sharon Moore

Hospitality:

Kimberly Escalante

Leadership Development:

[Need Chairperson]

Office Administrator:

Shannon Bailes

GAVELTALK

WE CAN CHANGE
THE WORLD



with KINDNESS

Seeing beyond the mess

When again last month we heard the news of more terrorist attacks in Europe, I was reminded again of a service that Pastor Ron Phares gave at West Valley on September 11, 2011, 10 years after the 9/11 attack. Pastor Phares talked about the lasting effects of



Onna Johnson

9/11, how that it's not over and forgotten, the effects of that day go on and on. He talked about seeing beyond the mess, recognizing the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

A brief phrase of the responsive reading during that service was, "We seek to understand... the anguish behind cruelty."

(#437) I personally want to always remember and practice an important message that Pastor Phares included in that sermon, "Honor the loss with your KIND life, very consciously treat everyone you encounter with extraordinary kindness."

Respectfully,
Onna Johnson
Board President

LINK ON FACEBOOK

If you have not yet joined up with the West Valley UU Facebook page or group, you are missing out on a little fun, some sharing and the quickest communication medium around.



Join Facebook, then search for the terms below:

Facebook group: West Valley UU Church - open to all - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/wvuuc/>

Facebook fan page: West Valley UU Church - <https://www.facebook.com/WestValleyUnitarianUniversalistchurch>



We're also on Google+, although that seems to be less of a thing.



PAY PAL

Make contributions to West Valley UU via PayPal to wvuumembers@gmail.com, or at westvalleyuu.org.



Thoughts on Black Lives Matter

By Rev. Christiane Heyde

We dedicated our new Black Lives Matter banner weeks ago. Before posting it, we reviewed that black people have been systematically disadvantaged, harassed, arrested, and incarcerated. They have been beaten and killed by police violence. Over 100 Unarmed black people were killed by police just last year. We decided to speak up.

Now, one bit feedback I received after the banner was dedicated was, that a word was missing. Since all people are important, let's say, "Black

Lives Matter, too." That way no one is left out.

My response is, no. That would relegate black people to be an afterthought. It sounds like all OTHER people matter, but we will grudgingly admit that black people matter, too. I know, that is not how the comment was meant, but for those who do not experience white privilege, that is how it would sound and look.

When a group is in danger of harm, we speak up. When whales are hurt and in danger from sonar, we say "Save the Whales." No conditions

added, not "Save the Whales, too" or "All Animals Matter." No. When a group of humans are denied worth and dignity, and are systematically discriminated against and harmed, we can clearly state that their lives matter. Period. That does not exclude anyone. It finally INCLUDES those who have been excluded for too long.

Black lives matter. As the sign says, Join the Discussion here!

With Love and Gratitude,
Rev. Christiane Heyde

SPEAKERS&TOPICS

May's theme is Letting Go

May 1

"The Paradox of powerlessness"

By Rev. Christiane Heyde

Isn't it ironic, that the more we try to control something, the less we are ultimately able to do so? Rev. Christiane will address this paradox in her sermon, as we begin the month of "Letting Go."

May 8

"Mama's Day"

By Sharon Moore

Historically and emotionally significant, the recognition of mothers goes back to the original goddess, Mother Earth, and continues to this day. What has Mother's Day been and what could it be?

May 15

"Freedom from Fear"

By Rev. Christiane Heyde

Many people find themselves trapped by fear and worry. As we consider the theme of "Letting Go" this month, Rev. Christiane will tackle the issue of fear and how to escape its grasp.

May 22

"Surrendering to Grace"

By Bhavani Hope

She will speak to the science of the evolutionary impulse awakening within the body, and how surrender is a vital component to the complete unfolding of this spiritual energy a(Grace), as well as practical exercises we can do as a group such as breathing exercises, concentration and repeating mantra (man=mind tra=tool).

May 29

Maryke Des Champs will combine two important May events: Holocaust Remembrance Day and Memorial Day. While she will remember victims of all wars, she will concentrate on her family's experience during World War II in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, and how they paralleled, in some ways, those of Anne Frank's family.

EDITOR'S NOTES

May sure is a big birthday month for this congregation!

Happy birthday to Shannon Bailes, Barry Linden, Doug Pope, Eric Des Champs, Diane Snyder, Suzy Howell, James Whitmore and Elaine King, and happy anniversary to Bill and Kathy Dugan!

Please feel free to email me photos of your celebrations so I can include them in next month's newsletter! Any and all photos are most welcome for our usual page 2 photo page. Also let me know what additional features and information you would like included in the newsletter. Submissions have become a little sparse of late and I'd really like to beef it back up and make it an entertaining read for you.

Stories, announcements, photos, links and comments are accepted any time. The deadline for the next newsletter is **Friday, May 27**. Getting material in on time is critical!

Thanks,
Emily Whitmore
EmilyAWhitmore@gmail.com

INPUT NEEDED

Spring Congregational Meeting May 15

Our Spring Congregational Meeting will be held in the sanctuary after service on Sunday, May 15, 2016, following a brief lunch. Items on the agenda include the proposed budget and election of officers for next fiscal year, 2016-17.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

'How Women Are Portrayed in the Media' discussion May 4

The National Organization for Women (NOW) SC/WV Chapter will meet Wednesday, May 4, 1 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 17540 N Ave of the Arts, Surprise.

"How Women Are

Portrayed in the Media" is the topic for discussion. The film, "Miss Representation" will be screened, followed by discussion. For more information, call 623-972-6273 or visit our website: aznow-scvv.org.

WHAT ARE ALL THESE HOLIDAYS?

Lailatul Miraj

commemorates Prophet Muhammad's ascension to heaven.

Ascension commemorates the day that Jesus ascended into heaven (Acts 1:1-11) after spending 40 days appearing to his disciples after his resurrection.

Yom Haatzmaut is Israel's Independence Day. Israel declared independence on May 14th, 1948.

Pentecost commemorates when Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with the disciples (Acts 2). With the Holy Spirit among the disciples, the church was born. In essence, Pentecost is the birthday of the Christian faith.

Lailatul Barat

commemorates a night that Muslims believe God descends from heaven and forgives sins very generously. For that reason, Muslims spend the night in prayer, and fast the next day.

The Omer refer to the 49 days between Passover and Shavuot. **Lag B'Omer** is the thirty-third day of counting of the Omer.

The Feast of **Corpus Christi** commemorates the sacrament of Holy Communion in the Roman Catholic Church.

MAYCALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Orthodox Easter May Day	2	3 St. James/St. Phillip National Teacher Day World Press Freedom	4 Audobon Society Board Meeting 7 p.m. Lailat al Miraj Shannon Bailes' birthday	5 Ascension Holocaust Remembrance Day Cinco de Mayo National Day of Prayer Barry Linden's birthday	6 9 a.m. First Friday Breakfast Brothers Family Restaurant 8466 W. Peoria Ave. Peoria, AZ	7 Family Circle Supper 5-9 p.m. at Sonoran Mountain Ranch Park Kentucky Derby
8 10:30 a.m. Service 11:30 a.m. Fellowship, Lunch, Social Hour Mother's Day	9 7:30 p.m. Men's Al-Anon Group-RE	10 7 p.m. Zen Meditation Service	11 Audobon Society General Meeting 6:30 p.m. Yom HaZikaron Doug Pope's birthday	12 Yom HaAtzma'ut	13	14 7 - 10 a.m. Campus Clean-up
15 10:30 a.m. Service 11:30 a.m. Fellowship, Lunch, Social Hour 12:00 Spring Congregational Meeting Pentecost	16 7:30 p.m. Men's Al-Anon Group-RE	17 7 p.m. Zen Meditation Service	18	19	20 Harmonic Chant with Bhavani 7 p.m.	21 Armed Forces Day Eric Des Champs' birthday
22 10:30 a.m. Service 11:30 a.m. Fellowship, Lunch, Social Hour Lailul Barat Trinity Sunday Diane Snyder's birthday	23 7:30 p.m. Men's Al-Anon Group-RE Victoria Day	24 7 p.m. Zen Meditation Service National Brother Day Suzy Howell's birthday James Whitmore's birthday	25 Bill & Kathy Dugan's anniversary	26 Corpus Christi Lag B'Omer	27	28 National Burger Day
29 10:30 a.m. Service 11:30 a.m. Fellowship, Lunch, Social Hour	30 7:30 p.m. Men's Al-Anon Group-RE Memorial Day Elaine King's birthday	31 World No Tobacco Day				

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, we just don't have it on file.

If you would like your special day to appear here please contact EmilyAWhitmore@gmail.com.

GOOGLE CALENDAR

This is the application that the online calendar at westvalleyuu.org uses. If you also use Google Calendar, you can link to the church's calendar so that WVUU events show up on your calendar. And no, people viewing the WVUU calendar can not see what is on yours. On the left side of the Google Calendar screen, it says "Other Calendars." Click on the "+" to expand the list, then type "wvuumembers@gmail.com" in the box that says "Add a friend's calendar."

COMING UP

Family Circle Supper! Sign up for the last Circle Supper this church year. Judy and Bernie Armstrong are hosting a Family Circle Supper on May 7 from 5-9 pm at Sonoran Mountain Ranch Park in north Peoria. Clipboard on Greeters counter.



OUR UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST PRINCIPLES

There are seven principles which Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote:

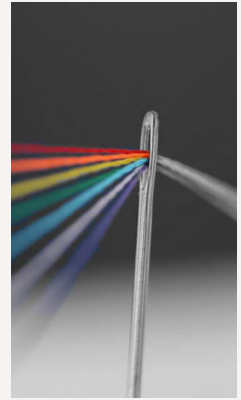
1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic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

Unitarian Universalism (UU) draws from many sources:

- 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
- 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
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves
- 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
- 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.

These principles and sources of faith are the backbone of our religious community.

Source: <http://www.uua.org/beliefs/principles/index.shtml>



COMMON THREADS

An excerpt from "Oneness: Great Principles Shared by All Religions"

Speak Truth

Putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members of one another.
-Christianity

Speak ye every man truth to his neighbor; execute the judgement of truth and peace in your gates.
-Judaism

Him I call indeed a Brahmana who utters true speech, instructive and free from harshness, so that he offends no one.
-Buddhism

Do not clothe the truth with falsehood; do not knowingly conceal the truth.
-Islam

Say what is true! Do they duty. Do not swerve from the truth.
-Hinduism

A lie can annihilate a thousand truths.
*-Ashanti proverb
African wisdom*

WEST VALLEY UNITARIAN
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GLENDALE, AZ 85304-3205



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



We are a welcoming
congregation

COVENANT

Love is the doctrine of our church
The quest for truth is our holy rite
And service is our prayer.
To dwell together in peace,
To seek knowledge in freedom,
To serve humankind in friendship,
Thus do we covenant.

MISSION

The West Valley Unitarian Universalist
Church provides a safe place to:
Celebrate diversity,
Draw inspiration for living better lives,
Foster social and environmental
justice, and
Compassionately support each other
in our spiritual searches.

SERVICES

Our Sunday services begin at 10:30
a.m. followed by a coffee house style
fellowship hour.

Professional child care is available
for children ages 3 and up.