

WVUU Times

October 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

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dmseneca@yahoo.com

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longroper623@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

David Moore
mooredavid06@gmail.com

Gavel Talk

Diane D'Agostino, President
West Valley UU Church
dmseneca@yahoo.com

On a recent walk with my sister along a creek bed in western Colorado, we noticed the hints given by nature that summer was coming to a close. A single branch on the north side of a tree had changed into bright yellow, a stark contrast to the other branches. An undergrowth of red creeper vines had already reddened, and many grasses were turning a rustic color.

My sister calls autumn a "wistful time." Living on 80 acres of fruit orchards, it is the time of the year when the growing season is winding down. The never-ending lists of chores are beginning to dwindle, and twilight begins to arrive ever earlier. The glory of summer is fading, and she feels a touch of sadness. There is satisfaction in having enough fruit to sell; the crops produced this year overcame the brutal conditions of heat and drought. But the frantic pace of summer has

brought on the need for some rest, and a reflection time is needed before another spring, another beginning, starts again.

For me, autumn has always been a time of great expectations. When I was a young student, autumn meant getting new school clothes, meeting a new teacher, learning new things. It was a time to gear up and get back into a regular routine. Once I became a teacher, the start of a new school year meant I had another chance to make improvements and set things right. Any missteps from the previous year could be wiped off the slate with a better management system and new teaching techniques. Plus, I would meet more students who would probably teach me as much as I taught them. I couldn't wait to get started.

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Sunday Services

Sunday Services begin at 10:30 a.m.
followed by a light lunch and fellowship.
Child care is available for children ages 3 and up.

October Theme: **Formation**

October 7: **Community**

Rev. Cathy Corbin-Mannino

At this ingathering, an invitation is made to all to join an evolving journey; a path that will ask much, but know that you are not alone. Whoever you are, whatever your gifts, you are welcome to join this journey.

October 14: **The Others**

Rev. Cathy Corbin-Mannino

Do we give our power away to "the others"? Learn how to recognize the various forms of energy "vampires" and how to keep them at bay.

October 21: **To Be Announced**

Tom Begush

October 28: **Playing With The Italians**

Jim Reay

An award winning sermon by renowned UUA theologian Rev. Dr. Edward Frost will be read by Jim Reay. We are challenged to stand up for what we know is appropriate and do the right thing.

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.



Justice in Action

Stacy Fitzwater stacylfitzwater@gmail.com

- **October 3: National Organization for Women.** The National Organization for Women (NOW) Sun City/West Valley Chapter will meet Wednesday, October 3, 1:00 p.m., at the UU Church of Surprise, 17540 N Avenue of the Arts, Surprise, AZ. Topics for discussion will be the issues relating to women in the coming election. There will be a presentation and discussion of the propositions on the ballot. For more information, call 623-972-6273 or visit our website: aznow-scwv.org

- **October 27: Issues and Action Day.** Please join us at Issues and Action Day 2018 with a focus on the election and us voting our UU Values—October 27 in Surprise. You can register through the UUJAZ website, www.uujaz.org

- **November 16-18: School of the Americas (SOA) Watch: Border Encuentro:** Save the date for School of the Americas (SOA) Watch: Border Encuentro November 16-18, 2018! For 26 years we were present at the gates of Ft. Benning, Georgia, and for the past two years we have been in both/ ambos Nogales, Arizona/Sonora, to continue our work to close the School of

the Américas (SOA) / Western Hemisphere Institute for Security and Cooperation (WHINSEC) by shining a spotlight on the disastrous effects of US intervention at the US/Mexico border. This year we are committed to demand:

- An end to Plan Mérida and the Alliance for Prosperity.
 - Demilitarization and divestment of borders
 - An end to US economic, military and political intervention in Latin America and the closure of SOA/WHINSEC
 - An end to the racist systems of oppression that criminalize and kill migrants, refugees, and communities of color
 - Respect, dignity, justice, and the right to self-determination of communities
- Learn more at www.soaw.org/border

- **Reproductive Justice.** Are you an activist for Reproductive Justice? Are you interested in organizing further on this issue? Valley UU, Chandler is forming a Reproductive Justice working group, and we are considering expanding to a UUJAZ Reproductive Justice Action Team. Email office@uujaz.org to join in this work and connect!



A FILM EXPLORING THE REAL COST OF PRIVATIZING
AMERICA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BACKPACK FULL OF CASH

NARRATED BY MATT DAMON

"A BEAUTIFUL FILM – TREMENDOUSLY MOVING! ... EVERYONE
WHO VALUES DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION NEEDS TO SEE THIS."
— SPANISH-SCALE, ADVOCATE FOR OPENED AND AUTHOR OF SCHOOL REFORMS



See “BACKPACK FULL OF CASH” at
West Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 5904 W. Cholla, Glendale
Friday, October 25, 7:00 p.m
Narrated by Academy Award-winning actor, Matt Damon,
BACKPACK explores the real cost
of privatizing America's public schools.

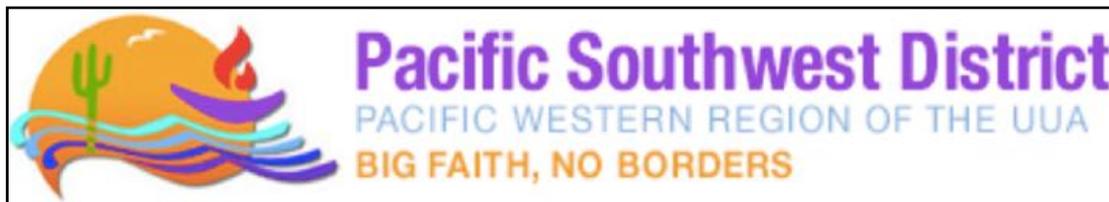
BACKPACK FULL OF CASH follows the tumultuous 2013-14 school year in Philadelphia and other cities where public education – starved of resources and undermined by privatization – is at risk. The documentary also showcases a model for improving schools where poor kids are getting a high quality education without charters or vouchers. BACKPACK FULL OF CASH makes the case for public education as a basic civil right.

The film features genuine heroes like the principals, teachers, activists, parents, and most hearteningly, students who are fighting for their education. Narrator **Matt Damon** explains, “I got involved in BACKPACK FULL OF CASH because I believe that every kid should have access to great public schools. I got a great education in public schools and my mom is an educator so I know just how hard teachers work every day.”

Director Sarah Mondale and Producer Vera Aronow are part of the team that made the award-winning, four-part PBS series [SCHOOL: The Story of American Public Education](#) narrated by Meryl Streep.

Click here to see the [BACKPACK trailer](#).

Minimum donation: \$5.00 per person



Save the Date & Call for Workshops

Proposals for workshops, conference sessions, and other activities are requested for the 2019 Pacific Southwest District Assembly April 26-28, 2019, at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Long Beach, CA

This year's theme is:

From the Ground Up: The Power of Our PSWD Communities

The congregation is the foundation of our Unitarian Universalist faith. Everything we do as an expression of our faith is grounded in the local communities from which we all take comfort and strength. Some of our greatest joys sprout from the spiritual communities and the congregations of the Pacific Southwest District - both big and small.

Share with us the foundation of your congregation's power in the area where your community really leads as an example for the rest of us to learn from.

If you have an idea for a presentation that would fit well with this theme, please contact District Assembly planning committee co-chair Michael Hart at michaelhrt3@gmail.com.

Workshop submissions are due by **October 20, 2018**.

Please note: Presenters provide their own transportation, registration fee, and expenses.

Gavel Talk

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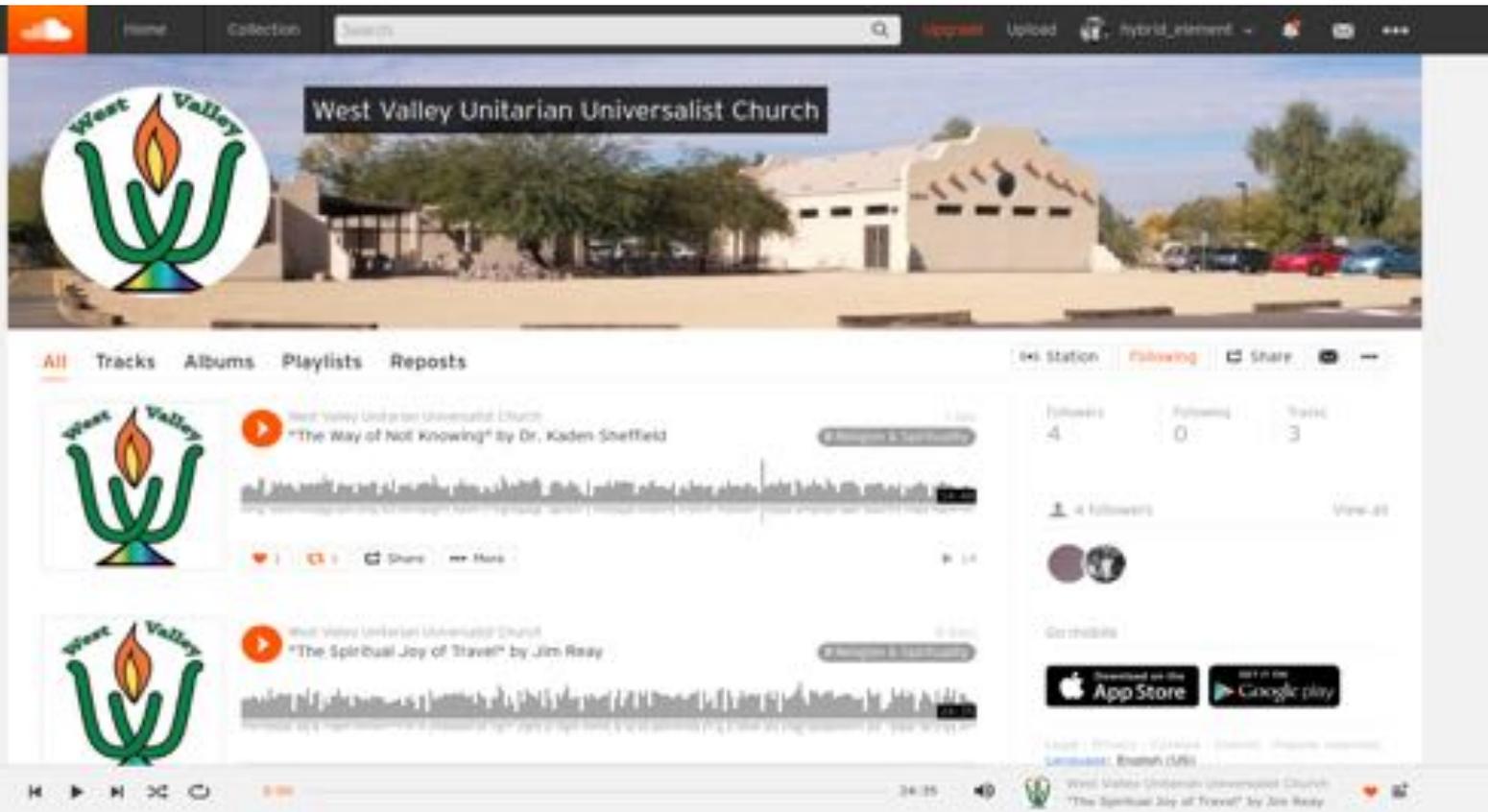
One of my favorite lines from the responsive readings in our gray hymnal is from #634: "Now is the time for turning." It describes the changes the fall months make in the natural world but goes on to discuss what "turning" might mean for each of us. What self-evaluation might we need to go through to check our progress on our journey? It might involve change, which is a bit difficult at times, but it is inevitable as the changing of the seasons.

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, I wish you well during the "turning time."



Sunday Sermon Podcasts

Listen to our sermons online! Whether you're out of town, just couldn't make it to a service, want to hear a particular sermon again, or want to share a sermon with someone, it's now just a few clicks away! A podcast (i.e., "iPod broadcast," or audio recording) of each WVUUC Sunday Service sermon can be found on our website at <http://www.westvalleyuu.org/services/sermons/>. Pictured below is our WVUUC web page displaying podcasts of our Sunday sermons



Pew Center's Religious Typology

A new Pew Research Center analysis, *The Religious Typology*, looks at beliefs and behaviors that cut across many denominations. It analyzes traits that unite people of different faiths -- or that divide people who have the same religious affiliation. It has produced a new and revealing classification, or typology, of religion in America that includes labels like *Sunday Stalwart* and *Solidly Secular*.

This new typology sorts Americans into seven groups based on the religious and spiritual beliefs they share, how actively they practice their faith, the value they place on their religion, and the other sources of meaning and fulfillment in their lives. Click on the link below to access this quiz and see where you fit:

- [Quiz: Where do you fit in the religious typology?](#)

UU Principled Minutes

Sharon Moore leadmoore@gmail.com

It's not enough to profess our principles on Sundays; we must process them in all their complexity each day.

Demonstrating our principles to others as we go about our daily existence is the best way to live our faith tradition.

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

Having respect for yourself and your actions will ultimately boost the amount of love that you express towards yourself and others. Make wise, respectful decisions that reflect your values and have strong respect for your personal beliefs. Treating others with respect will help you become a more conscious human being, too. Before you can respect others properly, you must first learn to show the utmost respect toward yourself.

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

When you feel slighted, ask yourself if what happened was really about you or if it was about the other person. When you realize that it was about the other person, find in your heart some compassion for that person, realizing that he or she is most surely struggling.

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

Simply having any form of desire will raise your consciousness. Desire encourages us to take action to advance consciously. The state of apathy, or not caring about your consciousness, will naturally lower your consciousness. Desire is a powerful way to raise your consciousness. What do you desire from our church? What do you desire to become a better UU. What are your spiritual goals? Ask others what they desire spiritually and how they expect to achieve their desires. How can you support one another in achieving your desires?

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

You have opinions, likely strong ones, on a variety of issues. Tell others about your concerns and what you think should be done by writing an article for our WVUUC newsletter in the periodic IMHO (In My Humble Opinion) column. Do you think too little time is invested in the children of our church? Do you worry that our congregation is choosing the wrong social justice issues to focus on? Do you wonder why we don't do more to help our own struggling congregants? Write about it. Start discussions. Suggest alternative responses.

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Principled Minutes

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

We are all bombarded with emails and pleas from groups hoping we will sign their petition or pledge. It takes five minutes to sign your name to one of these documents, but it could mean the world of difference for those trying to give legs to their cause. Even better, offer to take a petition around your neighborhood to collect signatures from others.

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

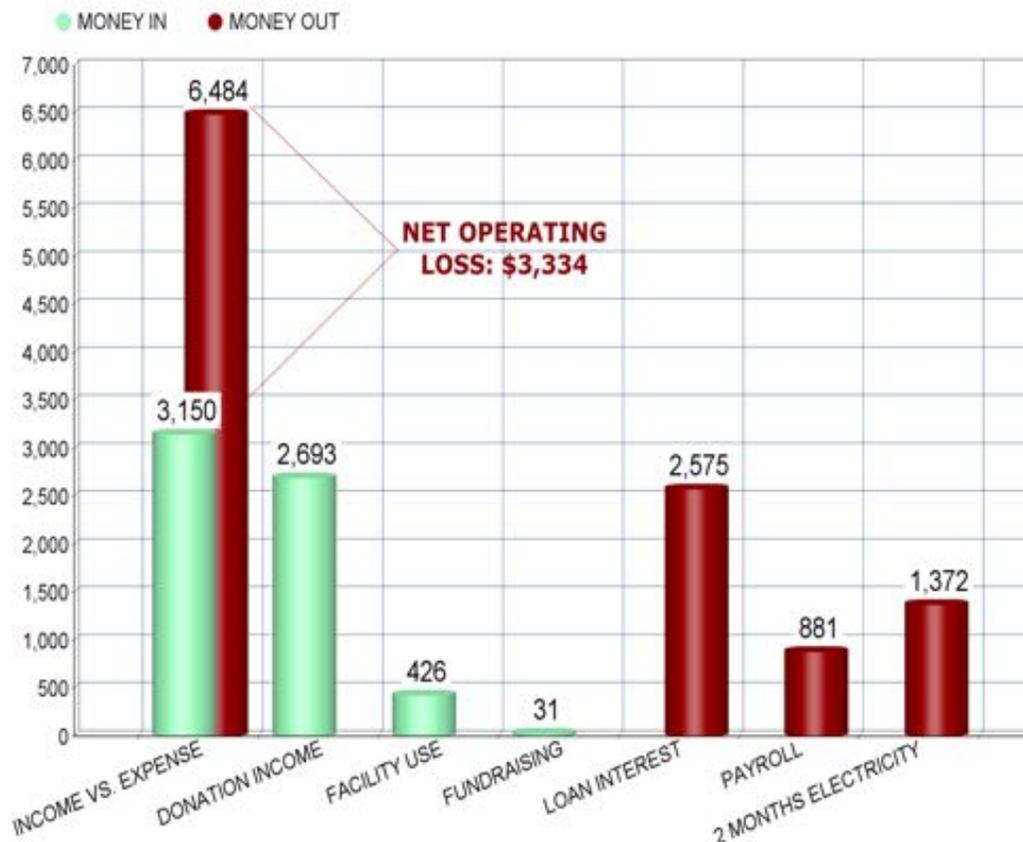
Make a personal commitment to nonviolence. When you feel angry, count

to ten before saying or doing anything. ⁸ Then ask yourself what response will be best for the greater good. Hate begets hate. Love is the only response that will conquer anger and hate. Modeling peaceful co-existence normalizes that response for others whose first response may not be one of peace.

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

We in the desert Southwest know better than many the need to save energy during the heat we experience. Saving energy doesn't just save money; natural resources are conserved as well. Installing shaded film on your windows will block sunlight and reduce air conditioning costs. Also, running a fan, while in the room, will make it feel five degrees cooler. But when you're not in the room, it wastes energy if left running.

AUGUST 2018 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



Kathy Dugan k.dugan@cox.net

Total Operating Income \$3,150

- Donation Income \$2,693
- Facility Use \$426
- Fundraising \$31

Total Operating Expense \$6,484

- Interest on Member Building Loans \$2,575
- Payroll Expenses \$881
- Electric Service (2 mos.) \$1,372

Net Operating Loss \$3,334

Getting to Know Barbara Colony

Sandra Mahoney

s_1mahoney@cox.net

Barbara Colony has had an interesting religious journey. Born on a farm in southern Illinois, she lived there until age 10 when her family moved to a small town. Although they had never attended church, her family went to a revival, where her parents went up and were "saved." Barbara ran up to join them, and the next thing she knew she was in a white robe and being led into a trough of water. She did not know what was happening and didn't think to close her mouth as they dunked her in the water. She was crying, coughing, and sputtering from the sudden submersion. After that experience, her parents did not go to church again.

When Barbara was 12, her family moved to Rock Island, Illinois, and Barbara attended a Presbyterian church with her best friend. The church officials decided her baptism didn't count, so she got "sprinkled" there. She was later married in that Presbyterian church.

Barbara and her husband, Warren, moved around a lot due to his job with Boeing. First, they moved to Washington where they lived

for many years and had three children. Later they added two more daughters to the family. Her neighbor attended a Church of Christ congregation, and she went there without knowing they believed they were the only true religion and everyone else was going to hell. Although baptized again in that church, she never accepted their beliefs.



After a move to Florida, the family attended a United Methodist Church which was comfortable for her with their belief that God is Love. She was in many activities there; she liked the women and attended the church for 50 years. Over time she became concerned about the

Methodists' lack of acceptance of homosexuality. Having two grandchildren who are homosexual, this became an issue for her.

Barbara was a typist and stenographer for many years, starting her senior year in high school and working for many years until she had children. Once the children were in school, she again worked in various secretarial jobs. When she was 50, she attended community college and earned an AA degree in early childhood education. She took courses to be a director of child care and was hired to create, license, and staff a child care program, "Rainbow World," at a church. She found going back to school, taking classes in philosophy, and having interesting discussions to be exciting and fulfilling.

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Barbara Colony

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Her husband, Warren, died thirteen years ago, the day after their fifty-sixth anniversary, after being ill for eleven years. After his death, Barbara's daughter, Nan, invited her to live with her in Louisiana, and they went to a Unitarian church. She was quite impressed with UU beliefs and principles.

Before moving back to Arizona, Nan checked out UU churches near Glendale. West Valley UU was on the bottom of the list because of its small

size and building campaign at the time. After attending two of the larger churches, they came to West Valley and immediately thought, "This is the one." It felt like home; acceptance wasn't just token but actual love for everybody.

Barbara's daughter, Shirley, lived in Arizona, so she, Nan, and Barbara rented a house together. Nan's cancer, which had been in remission, came back stronger than ever, and she passed away. Shirley has since moved back to Washington.

Barbara enjoys living at Immanuel Center where she attends a ladies' tea once a month. She had tried chair tai chi and would like to continue. She enjoys reading large print books and does jigsaw and crossword puzzles.

Barbara has enjoyed everywhere she has lived and was able to visit tourist attractions in each place. She counts her grandchildren's spouses among her grandchildren, which thus total 22, and she has 26 great-grandchildren.

Children's Religious Education

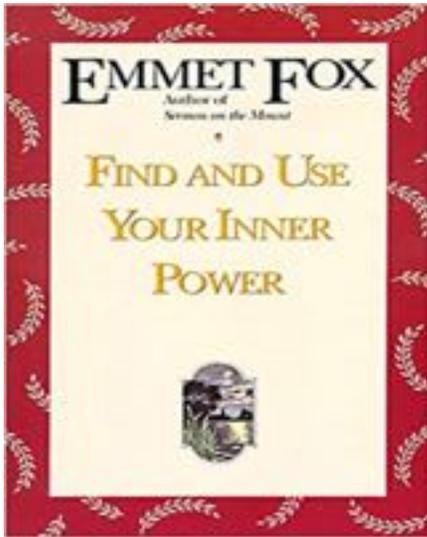
Mandy Oviatt ahmoondah@gmail.com

Children's RE Classes started September 2, and we've had lots of fun and learning! The children have started watching short videos about each topic before engaging in lessons. In September we looked into Places of Worship, Welcoming Children of Different Abilities, and Littering. In October, topics will include Nature-based Faiths and All Hallow's Eve.



Media Review

Fox, E. (1992). *Find and use your inner power*. San Francisco, CA: HarperOne.



Reviewed by Anna Rico

Last May I found myself in a low place and just couldn't seem to shake a dark feeling. When I shared with a friend my story of feeling this long-lasting spiritual low, my friend suggested I read *Find and Use Your Inner Power* by Emmet Fox. I gladly followed the suggestion because I had read one of his other books, *The Sermon on the Mount*, a few years before and gained a clearer perspective on a religious teaching that seemed so unclear to me when I was younger.

I grew up in a religious household in which asking questions meant doubting and lacking faith. Hence, my spiritual understanding was narrow and mostly closed to any ideas other than what I had been taught. In the summer of 2015, out of sheer desperation, I began traveling a new path on an unexpected journey to a spirituality that had eluded me most of my life. I was open to taking suggestions from people who inspired me spiritually.

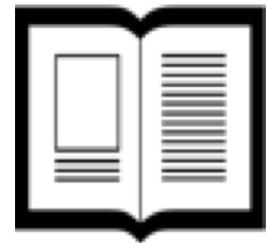
I find lessons in *Find and Use Your Inner Power* that are written in almost a playful manner. It is filled with one or two-paged perspective changing “aha” teachings. It seems I can pick it up at any given moment, turn to any given page, and receive a solution to a problem I am having or a learn a lesson I missed in the past.

In one of the writings Emmet Fox presents a story about a caterpillar, telling how we can parallel its life. Seemingly trapped in an “as-is” situation with nowhere to turn, we have

the capacity to change our attitudes and lives if we set out for our true “to-become” fulfillment.

In another few pages of writings, Fox lays out for the reader *Leaves from the Fool's Handbook* in which he bullets three lessons: (a) How to be unhappy, (b) How to fail at everything, and (c) How to destroy your health. I found myself laughing out loud at how much the behaviors he describes have been involved in some unhappy times in my own life.

If you have an open mind and can read this book with a willingness to learn from laughing at yourself, I believe you will thoroughly enjoy it!



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.