

WVUU Times

November 2018

West Valley Unitarian Universalist Church



WEST VALLEY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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Gavel Talk

Diane D'Agostino, President
West Valley UU Church
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Many of us count our blessings on a routine basis, but with November having an official day of gratitude, one often takes a more significant pause to look at life and recognize the blessings within it.

West Valley UU Church has much for which it can be thankful. Our campus is a peaceful place, clean and organized by diligent individuals for whom we are grateful. Whether participating in a service or relaxing outside with friends afterwards, I hope congregants feel they are welcomed members of this worship community.

For those who take care of the communication processes connecting us to each other as well as reaching out into the community, your time and effort are appreciated. A special thank you to Jan, our office manager, who takes care of administrative details during the week for us.

To those who contribute to making our Sunday services meaningful, a resounding "Thank You!" is sent your way. We are especially fortunate to have found a bright and positive minister, Reverend Cathy Corbin-Mannino, to share the spiritual journey with us, and we look forward to her perspective in the coming months. From the warm smiles of the greeters when we enter the sanctuary to the hospitality staff in the kitchen when we finish our Sunday activities, thank you for your contributions. In addition, the worship associates, chalice lighters, special presenters, and musicians bring inspiration through the written word and the musical note. And to the RE staff, thank you for providing guidance to our children in a caring manner.

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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.

November Theme: **Gratitude**

November 4: **The Bane of All Religion and Spirituality**

Barry Linden

Is the purpose of our church and religion to simply surround ourselves with ideas and people we already agree with? This sermon asks if we are better served by challenging our beliefs and comfortable ideas.

November 11: **Love to Eat and Pray**

Rev. Cathy Corbin-Mannino

We are physically programmed to love .. to pray .. to eat. Our bodies and souls have a hunger designed to motivate us to be filled so we grow and develop. Let's look at what we can do to feed our hunger for love and increase our experience of it.

November 18: **A Liberal Religion**

David Moore

What makes a philosophy of religion liberal? We'll trace progressive influences on Unitarian Universalism.

November 25: **Jim Anderson, Revised**

Rev. Cathy Corbin-Mannino

This time of year we often think of our country's forefathers and the first Thanksgiving. Remember the television show "Father Knows Best"? It might be wise to take a close look at patriarchy and, in order to be truly thankful, the role of father must be revised, redefined, and Jim Anderson redeemed.

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

National Farm Worker Ministry: Harvesting Justice Together. The National Farm Worker Ministry educates and mobilizes people of faith and conscience to support farm-worker led campaigns to improve farm workers' living and working conditions.

<http://nfwm.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/HOJ-Week-1-1.pdf>

November 7: National Organization for Women. The National Organization for Women (NOW) Sun City/West Valley Chapter will meet Wednesday, November 7, 1:00 p.m. at the UU Church of Surprise, 17540 N. Avenue of the Arts, Surprise, AZ. The results of the election will be discussed, followed by a training session on how to navigate the web site for "Request to Speak" at the state legislature. For more information, call 623-972-6273 or visit our website: aznow-scvv.org.

Circle Supper

Sharon Moore leadmoore@gmail.com

I like alliteration. It can be fun tongue twisters or a mnemonic device, as it is in the case of our monthly Circle Suppers. "Second Saturday Circle Supper" makes it easy to remember. After reading the newsletter, go mark second Saturdays on your calendar for the next several months. The sign-up for the Circle Suppers is after church on the two Sundays before the Second Saturday.

We are always in need of hosts so that each host has no more than one Circle Supper a year. Consider being part of our team and join the fun of having people join you, structured potluck style, for food and conversation. Contact Sharon Moore at leadmoore@gmail.com for more information.



Gavel Talk

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WVUU Church is also fortunate to have individuals who serve the church not only on the Board but also various committees. Their continued effort helps maintain a stable environment where all of our interests are important.

For me personally, I am grateful this past year for all of you who attend WVUU Church as well as those of you who have expressed your appreciation for all that is done. WVUU Church is a special place, and I count it as one of the blessings in my life.



WVUU SILENT Art Auction

(Beginning BID \$45 on each piece, minimum advance bid \$5)

ART on display in our West Valley UUC Sanctuary

5904 W Cholla St, Glendale AZ 85304

Auction Beginning Sunday, November 4th

Ending Sunday, December 9th @ 5:00 PM

With “Holiday Wine and Tapas” & MUSIC

Final opportunity to bid (Your presence not required to win!)

FEATURE ART: In the Fall of 2016, tourist-photographer, Tom Arn, discovered Rosenstrasse, a street in Berlin given over entirely to the art of graffiti. Tom took numerous photos and later had them enlarged, printed & framed. The result is the exhibit on the South wall in our Sanctuary. This art is unique because of the nature of graffiti, each piece of art would likely have been painted over within hours of the photographs being taken! **Additional art will also be on display in the Sanctuary for silent bidding.**

CONTACT: Ann Harper at digbyhill@gmail.com with questions please.



UU Principled Minutes

Sharon Moore leadmoore@gmail.com

Living our principles is the heart of Unitarian Universalism. Knowing what they are, repeating them on Sunday, is only the beginning of living the principled life. Here are some ways to show others what you value and to live your faith tradition every day.

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

Go out of your way to be kind. You can treat someone to small things like a new book, frozen yogurt, or just a laugh to brighten even the toughest of days. You can also volunteer your time, offering to babysit, run errands, etc. for anyone with a lot of weight on their shoulders.

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

Here's an idea for Sunday Services. Have a social action Sunday once a quarter to focus/refocus our energy by implementing a social action project. Perhaps we could put together shoe box toiletries for a homeless shelter, show up at a senior center and lead them in songs, or make lunches for homeless and distribute them in caravans. The Sunday Service time could open with a chalice lighting and reading, then we do our "good deed" and end with a chalice extinguish and final words.

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

Help others expand their spiritual horizons by inviting them to learn about a new faith together with you. Visit another faith community for a service. There are so many different religions, and each one offers a unique way to celebrate spirituality. When we learn about different religions, we discover more about other people and gain an appreciation for their beliefs and their ideas.

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

UUA has an adult R.E. curriculum, Building Your Own Theology, that has gotten good reviews from people who have participated. UUs like to talk ideas, philosophy, and cosmology. Even without purchasing the curriculums (\$16/ten sessions) or attending the sessions, you can have a similar experience. Invite friends to your home for coffee and dessert and discuss, informally, one or more topics like those in the curriculum: human nature, ultimate reality, ethics and religious meanings, truth and authority, sin, or other topics of interest.

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

Democratic processes require much:

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Principled Minutes

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- Involvement, commitment of energy and time to learn what the issues are, to form and express opinions, and to participate in the decision-making.
- Communication, so that people understand what is being discussed, have an opportunity to express their opinions, and follow a decision-making process.
- Knowledge of who, how and when the decisions will be made.
- Understanding of the implications of the decisions, for a specific period of time or 'final'.
- Appreciation of diversity, as everyone brings different gifts and strengths.
- Follow-through with commitments that result from the decisions that have been made

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

Become a pen pal with a local, state,

national, or world leader. Select an issue in that person's purview and lobby for the change you want to see. Write often. Provide facts and personal stories for illustration. Give examples of actions that could be taken. Ask the leader to help you in your quest.

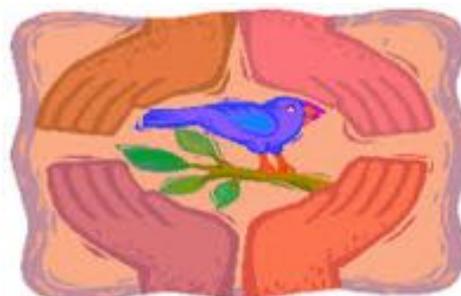
7th Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

Respect is action. We demonstrate our respect for others by giving them authentic positive attention, listening with positive attention, acknowledging them as fellow human beings, and providing appropriate recognition. Avoiding, withholding, or manipulating these responses are signs of disrespect. Any form of insult or humiliation is disrespectful. Disrespect is the precursor to hate. Evaluate/re-evaluate the evidence, avoid the distortions, correct the errors in reasoning, and reject the temptation to dismiss the other.

September 2018 Financial Highlights

Kathy Dugan k.dugan@cox.net

Total Operating Income - \$3,733
 Donation Income - \$3,430
 Facility Use - \$57
 Sunday Plate - \$246
Total Operating Expense - \$3,248
 First Mortgage Principal
 Payment - \$901
 UUA/PSWD Fair Share- \$330
 Electric Service - \$576
 Worship Services - \$500
Net Operating Income - \$484



Getting to Know Tom Begush

Sandra Mahoney

s_1mahoney@cox.net

Tom Begush spent his youth in Atlanta, Georgia which was hot, humid, and “full of rednecks.” He didn’t like it there, as you can probably tell. He enlisted in the Marines right after high school graduation and shipped out the same night. He was stationed in San Diego, which was a more relaxed environment than Atlanta; he liked the more laid-back atmosphere of the West Coast.

Tom was in the Marines for 12 years and was deployed four times, including to Iraq and the Pacific Rim. He was a truck driver, instructor, secretary, interrogator, linguist, and intelligence analyst. In 2003, he took a one-year break from the military and worked for the Sheriff’s department while living in Arizona. Alex had been born shortly before then, and the family later moved to New York after he re-enlisted. He and Alex’s mother were divorced in 2009, and she returned to Arizona where her family lives.

While in New York, Tom met Roz while working in a

restaurant owned by a friend of hers. Roz and he dated, and she asked him to attend church with her. Having had no religion as a child, he had occasionally attended church with friends, but it wasn’t for him. He was surprised that Roz wanted to attend and accompanied her to a small UU church which he liked.



He and Roz moved back to Arizona in 2011 to be close to Alex who was settled here. Tom attended ASU and earned a degree in computer science. He works for Amazon as an information technology specialist, keeping their computers running. He and Roz were married in 2011.

Roz and he first attended West Valley UUC because it reminded them of their church

in NY, being about the same size and feel. He is a member because “being an atheist declares what I don’t believe while being a Unitarian Universalist indicates what I promote and believe.”

Tom tries to help at WVUUC whenever and however he can. He was Vice-President for a while, helped set up and repair the office computers, gave several sermons, and served as worship associate.

Tom has some unique characteristics: he can speak Arabic, touch his toes, and crack every joint in his body. He enjoys being home with his family, working in the yard, and spending time with the dogs. He rides his bike when he has time, gets great enjoyment out of the history of rock and roll, and loves being a dad. He is taking Alex to get his driver’s license learner’s permit soon and has been looking forward to that for years.

IMHO

Sharon Moore leadmoore@gmail.com

Don't like how the country is going? Do something about it. Something pretty simple and quick. Vote. And hound others until they go vote, too.

James Madison, in the Federalist papers, expressed grave concerns about one-party control of all three branches, such as we now have. Madison argued that no political maxim was more important for liberty than that the legislative, executive, and judiciary departments should be separate and distinct. When all of these departments were in the same hands "whether of one, a few or many, or whether hereditary, self-appointed, or elective," that was the "very definition of tyranny."

To try and turn the Senate bluer, Willie Nelson wrote a song for Beto O'Rourke's Texas Senate campaign rally. "Vote 'Em Out" has some pretty great lyrics. The song is a call for action. Here are a few lines:

*"Vote 'em out, vote 'em out.
and when they're gone we'll sing and dance
and shout.
And we'll bring some new ones in,
and they will start to show again
that if you don't like who's in there,
vote 'em out."*

This year may be the most significant ever election in my lifetime. In my humble opinion, the future of our democracy is at stake. Who gets to decide the legislative actions for the immediate future rests upon shaking up the current configuration. With

one party controlling all three branches of government, I fear irreparable harm to the way we function in our country and in the world.

Only 33% of eligible voters in Arizona voted in the 2018 primaries. More than 2,000,000 didn't bother to vote. This is pathetic. In the last general election only 74% of Arizonans voted. Reprehensible.

A major responsibility to our country is voting. Inform yourself, then put the pen to the ballot.

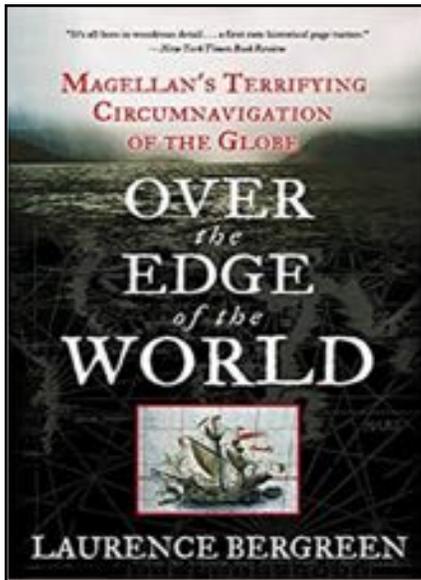
Feel as if your vote doesn't count? Think you're just one and what difference can you make? A single snowflake does not make a blizzard. But when each of us snowflakes decide to vote, the blizzard takes over the landscape. If each person makes the decision to vote, then things *will* be changed!

In a new video, President Obama addresses the seven reasons people give for not voting in this midterm election cycle. Take a look at this five-minute video here: <https://www.cnn.com/2018/10/17/politics/barack-obama-voting-excuses-video/index.html>

You vote, you say, so you're not part of the problem. Well, the most at-risk group for not voting, young voters, are critical to making change happen. If you know a young person, talk with them about the upcoming election. Encourage them to vote. Watch the video with them and talk about it. Or just watch it yourself to be informed and entertained. Vote. And tell others they must vote, too.

Media Review

Bergreen, L. (2004). *Over the edge of the world: Magellan's terrifying circumnavigation of the globe*. New York: Perennial/Harper Collins.



Reviewed by Jim Reay

I love non-fiction. In our modern world bombarded with new technologies and entertainment overly focused on make-believe video games and super heroes, I am all the more impressed with true heroes—early explorers who risked everything when they

had no idea what might lie ahead as they left the safety of a port.

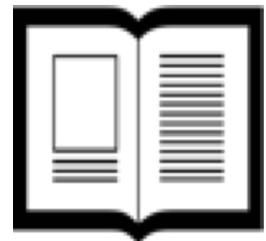
In 1519 Magellan with five ships and more than two hundred men set sail from Spain to find a water route to the Spice Islands. Despite suffering starvation, disease, torture, and death, they discovered the passageway known today as the Strait of Magellan. It was a spell-binding voyage—a captivating tale of a stubborn captain and the most daring discovery of the era.

It was a three-year journey filled with sex, violence, and amazing adventure. Driven by a fanatical dream to find the Spice Islands, Magellan was a frustrated Portuguese nobleman sailing for the king of Spain. He was a complicated man with absolute power of life and death over his crew. Magellan

himself did not live to complete the circumnavigation.

Good history relies on good sources, and every biographer of Magellan has depended on the journal kept by Antonio Pigafetta, a Venetian scholar who chronicled the mission. Pigafetta's diary even detailed sailors' orgies on tropical beaches. It's a terrifying drama of months at sea, sinking ships, cannibalism, beriberi, scurvy, and mutiny.

If you're interested, I would love to loan you my copy. I assure you, it's an educational and fascinating read!



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.