

WVUU Times

March 2019

West Valley Unitarian Universalist Church



WEST VALLEY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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Gavel Talk

Diane D'Agostino, President
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Who could have imagined that Stewardship Theory, developed in the 1990s by Lex Donaldson and James H. Davis, would someday be applied to a church? This theory stresses the importance of the relationship between the management of a company and the owners of that company. Managers would be responsible agents, or stewards, to protect the resources and assets of the company, and they would act in the best interest of the company rather than give in to self-rewarding behaviors.

Since its conception, Stewardship Theory has been applied to many areas including property holdings and environmental interests. The idea of stakeholders responsibly managing resources can also be applied here at West Valley Unitarian Universalist Church (WVUUC).

The majority of what is done here at WVUUC is completed in the spirit of stewardship. People work for the greater good in a variety of ways. For example, think of the physical maintenance of our campus. Repairs, Saturday clean-ups and housekeeping are just a few things needing continual attention. Providing a hospitality hour each Sunday is another example of how several individuals are needed to set-up, bring in food, maintain kitchen supplies, and clean up each week.

Providing a spiritual opportunity each week for our congregants brings in greeters, musicians, RE leaders, speakers and worship associates. And all those who are members of our committees give hours to serve this church in a myriad of ways. They all demonstrate the meaning of stewardship.

(continued on page 3)

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.

March Theme: **Truth**

March 3: **Fairness vs. Forgiveness**

Rev. Lori Kyle

Many of us are deeply moved by ideals fueled by justice. From justice often emerges an appreciation for outcomes based on fairness. We will explore how an allegiance to fairness potentially impacts our ability or willingness to embrace forgiveness.

March 10: **Confessions of a Clueless Conformist**

Rev. Cathy Corbin-Manino

The deadly blissful ignorance of white privilege. It isn't something we actively take or demand; society has given it to us. "Unless we change our institutions, they will continue to give it, however noble our intentions." (Paraphrased from Harry Brod)

March 17: *To Be Determined*

Dr. Kaden Sheffield

March 24: **Big Daddy Sound Bytes**

Rev. Cathy Corbin-Manino

Big Daddy is not my favorite Tennessee Williams character, but he can sure smell a lie. How do we learn to live with the "odor of mendacity"?

March 31: **Fighting for Equitable Healthcare**

Dr. Hiral Tipirneni

Healthcare is a moral obligation. Let's develop a collaborative approach that improves access to healthcare today as well as for generations to come.



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)

Being a strong steward means not just taking care of things in the here and now, but also planning for the future. In order to maintain what we have, we need to reach out for new members. In recent months we have gained new members, but we have lost triple the amount we have gained. This will translate into lost pledged dollars for us and difficult choices may need to be made by the Board this spring as it plans for the next fiscal year.

The beginning of the 2019-20 Pledge Drive begins on March 10 and provides us an opportunity to pause and assess how we demonstrate stewardship at WVUUC. When we are called upon by the Stewardship Committee Members in the coming weeks, I encourage each of us to welcome them and to pause and look realistically at what we can do in the spirit of stewardship. Each decision made will determine the success of this congregation.

Take care.

Snap! Crackle! Pop!

Sandra Mahoney s_1mahoney@cox.net

Have you attended a WVUUC Sunday Service when the microphones made disturbing noises?

The best guess is that these noises are caused by outside interference in the wireless portion of the sound system. Barry Linden has consulted with experts at Sam Ash audio store, and they recommend using a wired condenser microphone for the pulpit. The cost will run about \$400 at most for the necessary

microphone, wiring, and digital mixer. We will be able to use some cords and one microphone from the old setup in the RE building.

There is no money budgeted for this, so contributions would help. We already have one donation of \$100. Can you spare a little for this improvement? If so, please use a donation envelope and mark it for the Sound System, or use a check and write Sound System in the memo portion of your check. Our ears will thank you!



Hospitality

Sharon Moore leadmoore@gmail.com

Don't be surprised if Sharon Moore approaches you with her clipboard to sign you up to bring food for our Food and Fellowship Time following a Sunday Service. We are able to serve our congregation tasty treats after the church service only when volunteers provide them. Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed!

As an FYI, summer repasts will be scaled down to make it easier on our hosts who serve and clean up. Lighter work means the hosts are able to leave our campus at a reasonable time.

Some Sundays during the summer we will have sandwich meat and buns for you to make your own light lunch. Other Sundays we will have finger foods, like an appetizers lunch. We will make one Sunday a month

desserts and coffee only. Come September, regular meals will resume with salads, soups, or casseroles.

When you provide food for the Food and Fellowship time, you are not expected to serve and clean up because that is what hosts do. However, helping hands are rarely turned away. So if you want to load the dishwasher or wipe down tables and counters, we no doubt will accept your offer.

See Sharon if you can provide nourishment for a summer light lunch. She'll give you a big smile in thanks!

Finally, Hospitality wants to accommodate food restrictions. Please inform Sharon of any food allergies you or a family member might have.



January 2019 Financial Highlights

Kathy Dugan k.dugan@cox.net

Total Operating Income - \$3,671

Pledge Income - \$3,354

Fundraising - \$90

Sunday Plate - \$227

Total Operating Expense - \$7,560

Worship Services - \$750

Property & Liability Insurance - \$196

Interest on Building Loans - \$4,375

Office Supplies - \$205

Net Operating Loss - \$3,889



February Board Meeting Highlights

Sandra Mahoney s_1mahoney@cox.net

- The WVUUC Board met on 2/10/19 for about 90 minutes.
- The treasurer suggested we investigate refinancing our original mortgage to combine it with member loans for the new sanctuary. This will hopefully allow us to obtain a jumbo mortgage loan at a lower rate of interest and pay off building loans to members that were made almost 5 years ago. The facilities chair will follow-up. Treasurer noted the Sunday Plate collection is behind budget. Facilities costs are over budget as are office supplies due to the high cost of printing the Order of Service. The Board is recommending shortening the OOS to reduce printing costs.
- We made \$106 from the Zimmerman concert and hope to have more members and friends attend next time. Thanks to those who did attend and who brought friends with them.
- The canvass kickoff will be on 3/10/2019.
- The Board discussed how to increase pledging units. Kathy Dugan reiterated that the new UUA system for determining how much WVUUC contributes to the UUA is based upon a percentage of operating expenses for the previous year, rather than on the number of members in the congregation. A bylaws change will be needed as a result and will be voted on at the spring congregational meeting on 5/19/2019.
- We discussed having a child dedication service soon and having ceremonies recognizing new members as in the past.
- The R.E. director is currently teaching three Sundays a month and is requesting help so that she can occasionally attend morning services. All parents will be asked to help teach.
- Due to technical difficulties, we are behind in loading audio recordings of sermons onto the website. However, a solution has been found.
- Sound system problems were discussed, and these are explained in an article in this newsletter.
- The next Board meeting will be held on 3/3/2019.

Upcoming WVUUC Events

March 3: WVUUC Board of Trustees meeting

March 10: WVUUC Canvass Potluck Lunch. The Annual Canvass Kick-Off will be anchored by a communal meal. The Board will provide the main dish; the Stewardship Committee will provide desserts. This leaves side dishes like pasta, salads, fruit bowls, and other delights for you, as a member of the congregation, to bring. Don't forget your contribution to our congregational meal. It will be tasty!

March 30-31: WVUUC Arts & Crafts Market

UUJAZ Director

Unitarian Universalist Justice Arizona network is seeking a half-time Executive Director. UUJAZ focuses its justice work on strengthening justice ministries, connecting congregations and activists across the state, and working for socially just public policy at the state legislature that allow our progressive values to be heard and have impact over the long haul.

If you feel passionate about a variety of justice issues and enjoy working collaboratively, we encourage you to contact us! Fundraising, event planning and maintaining a social media presence are all part of the job responsibilities. Visit our website www.uujaz.org to see the job description and salary range and to discover how to apply.

RE Volunteers

We are seeking two volunteers to teach Sunday school one week per month. If you are interested, please speak to Mandy Oviatt or email her ahmoondah@gmail.com.



The National Organization for Women (NOW) Sun City/West Valley Chapter will meet Wednesday, March 6, 1:00 p.m. at the UU Church of Surprise, 17540 N. Avenue of the Arts, Surprise, AZ. The speaker will be Jodi Liggett, Planned Parenthood VP for Public Affairs. Everyone welcome. For more information, call 623-972-6273 or visit our website: aznow-scvv.org

Civility Pledge

What Can You Do?

- Sign the Civility Pledge at www.ReviveCivility.org
- Encourage your Representative to join the civility caucus
- Host civility conversations with friends, family and within organizations/clubs
- Kick off and lead a civility initiative in your community/county
- Build a cadre of facilitators to support civility within your community/county.

Grading on a ContinUUm

Emily Whitmore emilyawhitmore@gmail.com

Hi, everyone! I haven't written since the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released that scary report in October, and I wanted to spare you from my panic spiral. But I finally have a topic to write about that isn't as depressing as climate change. It's worse.

Just kidding. But it is about the Pledge Drive coming up this month.

I know, there's always that one service every March that feels like you're attending a PBS telethon. And heads up, it's happening this year on the 10th. But trust me, as uncomfortable as being solicited makes you feel, I am 1,000 times more uncomfortable doing the soliciting.

Personally, I hate asking people for money. I'm the worst salesperson ever. I failed spectacularly back in 2008 when I tried to do one of those home party jewelry businesses because I kept talking people out of spending money on frivolous overpriced sparkly things during a recession.

But West Valley Unitarian Universalist Church is as far from frivolous as it gets. Being a member of this church has brought me so much purpose, so much connection, and such a sense of belonging that I want to see it thrive so it can continue to bring purpose and connection to others for years to come. But in order to do that, we need your help.

When I first joined this church, I was a financial nightmare for the Board of Trustees. Because discussing finances is taboo in our society, and I was told to "pay what I could," I just pulled a very insignificant dollar amount out of a hat to pledge. And I often did not even fulfill that pledge. Poor sweet Judy Armstrong had to hound me about it. (Sorry, Judy!)

It wasn't until I joined the Board of Trustees that I understood how the sausage gets made and why pledges are so important. And now I'm here to give it to you straight.

Our treasurer, Kathy Dugan, did the math. It turns out \$1,200.00 is the average cost per Sunday Service just to pay the bills. This calls for an average WVUUC pledge in the ballpark of \$30 per week per family unit. I honestly wish someone had told me this when I first joined. I'm a little embarrassed, in retrospect, because I had no idea.

Now I don't want to scare any new or prospective members away with sticker shock! I know it seems steep. Some of our very generous longtime members donate much more than this, which is how we've been able to tread water ... for now. But if we want this church to grow, to thrive, I believe it's important to tell it like it is. Because knowledge is power. And there's power in our pledges.

Besides, WVUUC isn't some overpriced frivolous sparkly thing that will turn your finger green if you wear it too long. It's our community that gives us what we need to live a life of love and courage. And when you think of it that way, \$30 per week is a bargain!

!! NEW DATE !!

**Third annual Arts & Crafts
Flea Market**

Saturday, March 30

9 AM - 2:00 PM

Sunday, March 31

11:30 AM – 2:30 PM

We still have spaces available to rent to sell your wares if you like. Please call for more information!

(SUNDAY's rent is 1/2 price if you rent Saturday)

*This event includes **FOOD VENDORS***

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**West Valley UU Church    5904 W. Cholla St, Glendale AZ 85304**

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# UU Principled Minutes

Sharon Moore leadmoore@gmail.com

Living our principles is the heart of Unitarian Universalism. Knowing what they are and repeating them on Sunday is only the beginning of living a principled life.

Take a few minutes this week to reflect on what you believe and how you are living out your beliefs each day. Taken individually, each principle is a piece of the puzzle for the principled life. Together they make our lives the best it can be.

## **Principle 1: The inherent worth and dignity of every person**

Remember that Principle 1 applies to yourself. Give yourself the respect and value you give others. Take out your diary, a notebook, or a journal. List down all of the bad and good qualities you consider form part of who you are. List down the ways in which you feel you might do well to improve. Highlight the good qualities and talents that are already obvious. Do both lists with humility and a certainty that improvement is always possible in every respect.

## **Principle 2: Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations**

Milton Bennett substituted the Platinum Rule for the Golden Rule, which he found flawed. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Classic, right? Indisputable? Well, Bennett (and others) say the Golden Rule is too egocentric to

be useful. The Golden Rule assumes that what you want, what makes you happy (sad), is the same for others. We know that is not true. Bennett said (in the 1970s) that the Platinum Rule is better: "Do unto others as they would have done unto them." And how do you know what they would do to/for themselves? Ask, don't assume.

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

The Sunday morning discussion group before the service is an opportunity not only to explore our own spiritual growth and social issues that apply to our principles, but it helps others explore theirs. Spend some minutes thinking about the next Sunday's topic before you arrive. When you ask questions, when you respond to others' comments, everyone benefits. You benefit by clarifying your understanding. Others gain by considering different aspects of the topic.

## **Principle 4: A free and responsible search for truth and meaning**

Find a book at the library or bookstore that you can read a bit of each day as part of your self-reflection on what matters in the world and to your spirituality. The reading might be quite brief. Spend a few more minutes reflecting on how it supports (or doesn't) your spiritual search for meaning and what you find to be true. The words of others can lead us down avenues we never knew to explore.

(continued on page 10)

## ***Principled Minutes***

continued from page 9

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

Join the Postcard Power Project to inform our leaders on issues you care about. We gather at a table during Food and Fellowship time after Sunday Services and create messages to send off to legislators at the state and national levels. If you can't stay, grab some of the info and a few postcards to take home to write. We must let our elected officials know how we feel and what's important to us. Frequently. Eloquenty. And passionately.

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

Do you know a Negative Nelly/Ned? Understand that naysayers and those who are negative will always be there.

However, it's our choice to listen and heed their dire warnings and controlling ways. Or we can acknowledge their presence but refuse to take on board their opinions and demands. Realize that much negativity is founded in fear of the unknown, insecurity and resentment. Don't feed those wolves; feed the good wolf instead and rise above the critics. If we all followed that path, negativity would be greatly reduced. Give back love for every negative cast our way.

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

Saving energy where we can helps preserve our planet's resources. Little things we can do to reduce our energy footprint include wearing slippers and light sweaters so we can lower the temperature a few degrees and covering our legs and/or torso with a lap quilt or blanket when sitting still at home.

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## **Upcoming Denominational Events**

**April 26-28: Pacific Southwest District Assembly.** The 2019 UUA Pacific Southwest District Assembly will be held April 26-28 at the UU Church of Long Beach, California. Go to the District Assembly website to register and find details about workshops, schedule, accommodations, and more. Save money by registering before March 31.

**June 19-23: UUA General Assembly.** The UUA General Assembly will be in Spokane, WA on June 19-23, 2019. The theme is *The Power of We*. In a time of great challenge and heartbreak in our world, what does our faith demand from us? At this year's G.A. we will explore the joy of finding the path forward together as Unitarian Universalists. Information about registration to attend in person or on-line is available on the UUA website: <https://www.uua.org/ga> Please contact Diane D'Agostino if you are interested in attending.

# Getting to Know Nick Reachmack

Sandra Mahoney

s\_1mahoney@cox.net

**Nick Reachmack** was born in Washington, D.C. and lived there for 26 years. His mother emigrated from Germany and was educated at a Quaker college. His father's parents were from Ukraine. Nick was baptized in a Russian Catholic Church but attended Quaker meetings and a Lutheran church while growing up.

After two years in college he worked for an engineering firm that was designing the D.C. Beltway. After attending George Washington University, he transferred to Catholic University of America and graduated with a degree in civil engineering. He became an active Catholic and married before moving to Seattle to work for Boeing for 8 years. He and his first wife had five children.

Nick moved to Phoenix in 1971 as a highway engineer. He joined the Navy Reserves and took on assignments in Naval intelligence in Korea and Panama before returning to Phoenix.

After his divorce, he became a member of AA. One night he asked his higher power for help in meeting someone with whom he could spend his life. He met Valerie on a Reserve weekend trip three days later, and they married the following year.



After the San Francisco earthquake in 1989 they moved there where he helped relocate the elevated freeway that had collapsed. Following that they moved to Indiana where their religious life bloomed as they met religious scholars and authors at the Episcopalian cathedral where Valerie worked and at the Quaker meeting they attended.

Valerie later took a job at a UU Church in New York, and they moved to New Jersey. They moved back to Phoenix in 2011 due to the high cost of living on the East coast. They came to WVUUC when Rev. Phares was here. They liked his sermons and the congregation, so they became members.

Nick considers himself a Christian UU. He believes if you are going to attend, you should commit yourself to the church and be active in it. He was the RE director for three years.

Nick is in his fourth year of a course for lay leaders called Education for Ministry. He enjoys learning and discussing religion and spirituality. He is currently writing his religious biography for the class and stated, "Spirituality is not a way of life, it is a part of life; it is like going into a dark room and turning on a light."





# IMHO

Sharon Moore leadmoore@gmail.com

In my new role heading up the Hospitality Committee, I've been paying attention to more than just "Do we have food today?" Important, for sure, but lately I've been thinking about how we welcome visitors.

In my humble opinion, *Welcoming Congregation* is more than a UUA designation referring to a congregation's program of gender and sexuality inclusion. It seems to me that *Welcoming Congregation* also could mean we welcome everyone. Which we supposedly do at WVUUC.

Personally, I don't care for—and have expressed my concern about—the change we made in not inviting visitors to introduce themselves at the beginning of our Sunday Services. Such introductions were optional, they took little time, and they validated visitors' presence. After the Service, I would greet as many visitors as I could, often connecting my greetings with something they said during their intros. Visitors are more likely to return when they feel noticed and connected.

I understand that cutting visitors' introductions was a Pacific Southwest District recommendation. But not all UU

churches followed it, and visitors are still introduced in some. I'm lobbying, as you can tell, for a return to the way we previously treated visitors.

No matter what, each of us does well to make an extra effort to welcome visitors. If you are sitting in a row with someone new, approach them and introduce yourself. Invite them to the Food and Fellowship Time after the service. Ask how they found us. Ask if they are familiar with UU churches. Take a few minutes to make newcomers glad they chose to spend a Sunday morning with us. You might be doing this already. But if not, why not?

Also, being social animals, we tend to cluster in familiar groups. Sunday after Sunday friends want to eat together and catch up. But put yourself in the place of a visitor. You probably would be asking, "Where should I sit?" "How can I enter a conversation?"

I say leave one or two seats at your table and invite new folks in. Friends taking all the seats at tables closes off the chance to meet new people, get new ideas, and learn interesting things. It limits opportunities to broaden and live the designation of *Welcoming Congregation*.



STANDING ON THE SIDE OF

LOVE

# UU Lent

Sharon Moore leadmoore@gmail.com

Lent, a Christian commemoration of Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness, begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter. As a young person, I associated Lent with deprivation, giving up something I enjoyed. However, it can be devoted to reflection and meditation — part of our spiritual exploration.

The West Fork Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in West Virginia presents an

alternative way to practice Lent. They publish a different word for each of the 40 days of Lent and encourage us to reflect on the word and capture an image it inspires.

Below is this year's list of 40 words. While they suggest taking a photo that represents each word, I find quotes for each day's word and reflect on the quotes on my Facebook page. I let others know we UUs are spiritual, too.

## 2019 PHOTO A DAY #UULent



Join a Unitarian Universalist practice of Lent! Each day, Unitarian Universalists and our friends and family will intentionally reflect on a daily word, carry our awareness throughout the day, and capture an image that represents the word for us. We'll share our reflections and images on social media with the hashtag #UULent. On Sundays, we challenge each other to reflect on the daily word and also embody and enact it in our lives. (Created by Mr. Barb Greve; designed by Alex Kapitan.)

| S | M              | T                | W              | T               | F             | S              |
|---|----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
|   |                |                  | 6 dedication   | 7 vulnerability | 8 intention   | 9 dreams       |
|   | 10 bravery     | 11 struggle      | 12 resilience  | 13 mistakes     | 14 acceptance | 15 partnership |
|   | 16 courage     | 17 heal          | 18 search      | 19 hunger       | 20 curiosity  | 21 wonder      |
|   | 22 possibility | 23 focus         | 24 hospitality | 25 play         | 26 friendship | 27 safety      |
|   | 28 dust        | 29 understanding | 30 blessing    | 31 mercy        |               |                |
|   |                |                  |                |                 |               |                |
|   | 1 gratitude    | 2 wisdom         | 3 sacred       | 4 suffering     | 5 forgiveness | 6 transcend    |
|   | 7 justice      | 8 grace          | 9 build        | 10 trust        | 11 recovery   | 12 art         |
|   | 13 love        | 14 sanctuary     | 15 travel      | 16 truth        | 17 ally       | 18 pain        |
|   | 19 loneliness  | 20 faith         | 16 rejoice     |                 |               |                |

## Web Presence



Go to this online calendar for WVUU events:

[westvalleyuu.org/events/calendar/](http://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](https://facebook.com/groups/wvuuc)

Facebook Fan Page  
[facebook.com/WestValleyUnitarianUniversalistChurch](https://facebook.com/WestValleyUnitarianUniversalistChurch)

Pin and browse UU-related visuals at this site:

[pinterest.com/pin/242772236133017855/](https://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.