

WVUU Times

April 2019

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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“Ours is a welcoming congregation, a status we sought and achieved through the efforts of several devoted members of our congregation. This official recognition emphasizes that you are welcome here regardless of your sexual orientation or identification.”

I have said these words, or something similar, at every WVUUC Sunday Service where I have been the worship associate. This sentiment is a result of the Unitarian Universalist Association's outreach to the LGBTQ+ community in the 1990s.

In 2015, a renewal program for Welcoming Congregations was put into place, emphasizing the need for each congregation to strengthen its commitment by addressing the concerns and needs of the LGBTQ+ community. Since that time, 18 of

800 Welcoming Congregations have achieved renewed status.

The renewal process expanded last year with a bolder plan: the Welcoming Congregations Five Pillars of Welcome Renewal Program. Social issues not only in the LGBTQ+ community, but also the TGQNB (Transgender, Queer, Non-Binary) community are still in need of being addressed within the UU Church. Both groups are struggling to feel a sense of community within the UU Church.

The Five Pillars of Welcome Renewal will be a process needing to be completed each calendar year starting in 2019. In order for a UU Church to maintain its current welcoming status, it will need to complete five actions:

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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.

April Theme: ***Salvation/Wholeness***

April 7: **My Mesmerizing Search for Shangri La**

Jim Reay

Jim will share his lifelong journey seeking spiritual wholeness, from born again Christianity to atheism.

April 14: **Can Anything Short of a Revolution Save Us?**

Rev. Cathy Corbin-Manino

We are in revolutionary times, but it's a revolution about construction, not destruction; it's not about fighting anyone, but about standing in our oneness; it's not about being against anything, but about being for love, because we know that love wins!

April 21: **Environment, Justice, and Equity**

Sandy Bahr

Our favorite environmental speaker, Sandy Bahr, chapter director of the Sierra Club's Grand Canyon Chapter, returns to WVUUC on Easter Sunday.

April 28: **Of Wholeness and Healing**

Rev. Cathy Corbin-Manino

Healing is less about fixing and saving and more about recognizing the wholeness that has always been there.

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)

- Become a Welcoming Congregation by fulfilling the original objectives
- Incorporate Welcoming Worship Services into the worship calendar every year
- Provide a yearly recognition and celebration of days or seasons important to the LGBTQ+/TGQNB communities
- Experience a Welcoming Congregation Module (seminar or webinar) each year
- Support a Welcoming Project that uplifts the LGBTQ+/TGQNB communities with a donation

I am hoping WVUU Church would like to continue its Welcoming status with the UUA. Having said that, to fulfill the necessary steps for our renewal would take a dedicated committee to work together for the remainder of the calendar year on the above mentioned activities. At the end of the year, the committee would leave in place a basic renewal structure that could be modified as needed in the coming years by other members of our congregation.

This is a great chance to get in at the ground level of something that will have a lasting effect. If you are interested in being part of this opportunity which will allow us to grow in kindness, please contact me by April 15th.

Take care —

Amazon Smile

Do you shop online at Amazon? Did you know that each thing you buy can provide a contribution to our church? I encourage you to use [smile.Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile) My purchases have donated over \$30 to our congregation. Please contact me, Jim Reay (623-974-4218; jimreay@gmail.com), with questions.

Health Care Fix It

Would anyone like to watch an interesting and well done DVD, called *Fix It*, about a single payer health care system? This video explains how it could be done and how it would work. I could show it in my home or at the church depending on the number of people. Contact me, Mary Lynne Shroyer (623-974-9368; marylynneshroyer@yahoo.com), about viewing *Fix It*.

Hospitality Hosting

Sharon Moore leadmoore@gamil.com

The WVUUC Hospitality Committee has many moving parts. We have weekly hosts who prepare coffee and tea, set out food, then serve it. They clean dishes, utensils, cups, and the whole kitchen afterwards. We have weekly food providers who bring salads, casseroles, soups, and desserts. We have a person who washes our cloth napkins each week. When all goes well, the committee is like a machine that churns out delectable repasts for our congregation and visitors week after week.

The Hospitality Committee depends upon a huge cadre of volunteers for this to happen. So thank you to all who contribute in various ways!

Right now we need hosts. Hospitality hosts cover the four Sundays of a typical month. But every couple of months we have a fifth Sunday, and we don't have a regular host for

those days. If anyone reading this is willing and able to host the fifth Sunday when one occurs, please contact me.

My second request involves hosting the second Sunday of each month during the summer. I'm looking for someone to cover June, August, September, and October. If anyone reading this is willing and able to host the second Sunday of these months, please contact me.

Finally, if anyone is available to help Morgan host the third Sunday when Kay leaves for the summer, it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact me if you can contribute this way.

Consider contributing to the Hospitality Committee and WVUUC by serving as a host. Remember, service is our prayer!



February 2019 Financial Highlights

Kathy Dugan k.dugan@cox.net

Total Operating Income - \$4,537
 Pledge Income - \$3,514
 Fundraising - \$533
 Sunday Plate - \$365

Total Operating Expense - \$5,607
 Worship Services - \$650
 Payroll - \$533
 Interest on Building Loans - \$2,700
 Electricity - \$260

Net Operating Loss - \$1,070



March Board Meeting Highlights

Sandra Mahoney s_1mahoney@cox.net

The Board for Trustees met March 3 because the Canvass kick-off luncheon was March 10.

- The Caring Committee asks church members to notify Cara Lancellotti or Diane D'Agostino if cards or phone calls should be made to members in need.
- Sharon Moore is heading the Hospitality Committee and will vary the food during the summer so that some Sundays will be a lighter fare. She needs help in the summertime when she is gone.
- Sandra Mahoney agreed to print and laminate the covenant and mission statements so they do not need to be printed in the Order of Service each week. The Order of Service is being shortened to one-half page to reduce printing costs.
- Emily Whitmore agreed to purchase a kit for Faith Climate Action Week which is April 5-14.
- UUA has sent information about Welcoming Congregations. The requirements now include a need to renew

the Five Pillars of Welcome each year. (Diane D'Agostino's *Gavel Talk* in this newsletter tells more about this.) The Board decided a committee was needed to guide us through the process. Volunteers would be appreciated. Please contact Diane or Sandra.

- The Leadership Development Committee, which nominates church members for the Board and to chair committees, needs new members. Volunteers would be appreciated.
- The Facilities Committee reports a high number of keys have been distributed. Noel will be requesting most of those be returned.
- The Board is working on bylaws changes for minimum contributions for membership, term limits on the Board, and record keeping and storage.
- The next Board meeting will be April 7.

Hospitality Thanks

Sharon Moore leadmoore@gmail.com

Sharing food in fellowship is one of the most ancient of human traditions. We communicate goodwill and respect when we break bread together. Every week some of you step up to provide food for WVUUC. Thank you so much to those who make this happen each week.

Thanks also go to our weekly hosts, the ones who make the coffee and tea, set out the food, then wash everything afterwards. The hosts for each Sunday are as follows:

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Hospitality Thanks

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First Sunday: Roz Cook

Second Sunday: Sharon Moore and
David Moore

Third Sunday: Morgan Oviatt and Kay
Vogt

Fourth Sunday: Doug Pope and Dorothy
Ward

Fifth Sunday: **Help!** We need someone to
host on the occasional fifth Sunday of a
month. Is this you? Grab a friend and
volunteer!

Elaine King launders our napkins every
week. What a great contribution!

Thanks also go to our food providers. Every
other UU church I have attended provides

coffee and maybe cookies after the service.
But at WVUUC, a light lunch is provided each
and every week. This is possible only
because people generously offer their time
and talent.

I became Hospitality Committee Chair in
February. The people who provided food in
February and March were Sandra Mahoney,
Emilie Sulkes, Cara Lancelotti, Louise Slotto,
Mary Lynne Shroyer, Joy Bowen, Diane
D'Agostino, Shannon Bailes, Dorothy Ward,
Kay Vogt, Annette Darling, Jeanette Morgan,
and me, Sharon Moore.

Food in April will be provided by Kellye
Perkins, Jim Reay, Emilie Sulkes, Mary Lynne
Shroyer, and me.

Thank you so much for contributing! I am so
grateful to work with such generous people.



The National Organization for Women (NOW) Sun City/West Valley Chapter will meet Wednesday, April 3, 1:00 p.m. at the UU Church of Surprise, 17540 N. Avenue of the Arts, Surprise, AZ. The speaker will be Roselyn O'Connell, Past President of the Women's Political Caucus. She will hold a workshop on the Dr. James Birren method of Guided Autobiography. For more information, call 623-972-6273 or visit our website: aznow-scwv.org.

UU Principled Minutes

Sharon Moore leadmoore@gmail.com

I meditate most mornings. Like exercise, it is not yet something natural for me to do. But I spend time meditating partly because I know it is good for my mental and physical health and partly because I feel differently after thinking deep thoughts for a time, being mindful.

Reading is the major input for my meditations. I read inspirational material written by inspiring people, and I give the ideas a think. Writing is also one of the ways I meditate. During March and into April I have been posting a UU Lent word-of-the-day on Facebook with relevant quotes and my reflections. When I write the Principled Minutes each month, I am reflecting and considering each principle anew.

Principle 1: The inherent worth and dignity of every person

This being the first principle must be because it is hard for most people to live by, and so it is placed front and center to give us regular practice. Would you welcome, say, Donald Trump to our services? What if someone who shot up a church showed up after serving his sentence? How do we get past the egregious to see, and honor, the inherent worth and dignity of those people? Surely if we can argue for respecting them we can look past the foibles of our regular congregants and give them the respect they deserve from a UU who is trying to

live the principles. There is no excuse you can give not to respect this principle for all.

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

American civil rights activist and school administrator DeRay Mckesson said, "The difference between equity and equality is that equality is everyone get the same thing and equity is everyone get the things they deserve."

Often these two are confused and used interchangeably which complicates the discussions around social services. In one of my jobs, I argued that we should not put the same resources for struggling readers at each school. Rather, where there was greatest need, I wanted to allocate more resources, even if it meant not every school received the services. I was overruled. Each school got an equal amount while I was going for equitable amounts. How would you respond?

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

Practice, practice, practice. Every moment is a new moment to practice acceptance and non-judgement. Don't criticize yourself for the internal critical voices in your head. We all have been trained in judging others from an early age. It will take time to unlearn this habit. However, UUs can be given to a bit of elitism. We are often critical of those who go for the myths and mystery doctrines of their churches.

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Principled Minutes

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Being accepting and encouraging spiritual growth isn't limited to "our congregations." Each person (Principle 1 again) has the right to his or her own spiritual growth choices, whether we agree with them or not. At heart, it is all about the fundamental and shared values of all religions: to love one another and care for one another.

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

There is a reason why hymns/songs are part of most religions' spiritual searches. The arts are a wonderful way to expand spirituality. Music and dance are not only enjoyable, but they can also be highly spiritually fulfilling. As you listen to music with others or sing our songs, everyone participating can feel a sense of uplifting. Additionally, dancing allows individuals to express themselves in a healthy and fulfilling way, which can improve their overall physical wellness too. Maybe we should regularly include dance/movement in our Sunday Services.

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

Steven Covey said "Every human has four endowments - self awareness, conscience, independent will, and creative imagination. These give us the ultimate freedom ... The power to choose, to respond, to change." How does his quote play out in your daily life? In your

spiritual life? Reflect on the balance the four have in your life.

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

Here's an idea for table discussion at the Hospitality Hour after the service. Did you recently read a social justice focused article? Tell people about what you read and ask for a clarification of a point you didn't understand. Talk with others about applications of the ideas in the article. What can you do now? What other actions can be taken?

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

Radiate a caring attitude. Smile at others and bring brightness into their lives. Share genuine goodwill and kind spirit to those you meet and to those you spend time with. Your determination to care and to bring a happy spirit into other people's lives will encourage greater peace around you. Realize that when you are living in the moment, you are alive and actually happy. You behave nicely with others as a result. Hence, your positive behavior wells up into your surrounds, instilling happiness in the people you interact with.



Getting to Know Janet Wandrey

Sandra Mahoney

s_1mahoney@cox.net

Janet Wandrey spent her first twelve years in Chicago, then her family moved to Valparaiso, Indiana. She has good memories of those years in Chicago during World War II since lots was happening in the city. Her mother, who was Episcopalian, and her father, who was an atheist, agreed upon marrying to rear their daughters as Episcopalians and sons as atheists. Janet and her sisters were baptized and confirmed in the Episcopal faith.

After graduating from DePauw University, Janet worked for Northern Illinois Gas Company as a home economist. She and her husband moved to Park Forest, Illinois, where she also taught Sunday school to five year olds in a community church. Eventually she became uncomfortable teaching what she no longer believed.

After several years, her husband was transferred to Arizona where she has resided ever since. After her divorce,

she worked for twenty years as a graphic designer at Glendale Community College. She also took classes in graphic design at GCC and eventually was selected to teach night courses in that subject. She completed an MA in Education from ASU.

Janet has four daughters. All four are happily married, and Janet has eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren.



At her fiftieth high school reunion, she met Jerry Ronneau. They had known of each other but never talked prior to the reunion. They have since become good friends. Now she spends six months of the year in his antebellum-style

home in Valparaiso and six months in her home in Arrowhead. Jerry, who owns eight Model A Fords, and she go to car shows together, and he spends four months of the year with her in Arizona.

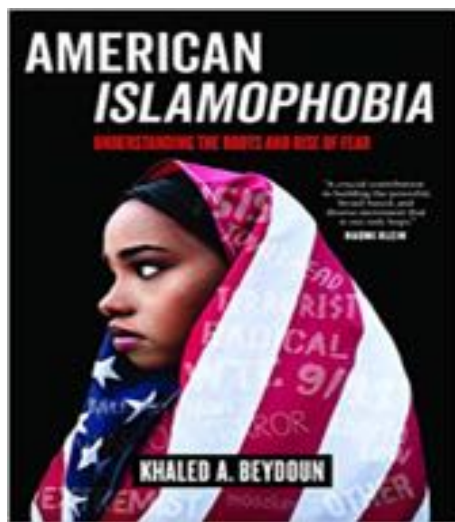
Janet is an artist who does watercolors, acrylics, and oils. She recently displayed some of her paintings in our sanctuary. She also is a gardener who has a fantastic garden in Indiana.

Jerry introduced her to the First Unitarian Church in Hobart, Indiana where he is a member. She found she likes UUs. They are unique, interesting, and everyone has a different background. She describes herself as 90 percent agnostic. She joined WVUUC because she wanted a church home and Unitarian Universalism is the religion with the beliefs closest to her own.



Media Review

Beydoun, K. A. (2018). *American Islamophobia: Understanding the roots and rise of fear*. Oakland, CA: University of California Press.



Reviewed by Diane D'Agostino

“Please don’t be Muslim, please don’t be Muslim,” was the wish Khaled A. Beydoun whispered on the morning of September 11, 2001 when he first turned on his TV. Sadly, his wish was not granted. The catastrophic event would usher in a renewed period of nativism and xenophobia with Muslims as the prime target.

Beydoun’s book, *American Islamophobia: Understanding the Roots and Rise of Fear*, shows that fear of Muslims in the United States is not new.

Starting off with basic definitions of Islamophobia (private, structural and dialectical), Beydoun goes on to give ample historical background.

He reveals how Islam has been consistently prevented from being part of the American mainstream. For example, during the Antebellum period (pre-Civil War), “Social scientists estimate that 15 to 20 percent of African slaves were Muslim” (p 56). Despite this significant percentage, many historical records make little mention of slaves’ native religions. Any religion that was not Christian was ignored and, over time, erased from slave culture. Slaves not only lost their African culture, but also lost their native religion.

The struggle for recognition by Muslims becomes even more pronounced as Beydoun outlines significant court cases where Muslims applied for U.S. citizenship. The court system was concerned Muslims would not be able to assimilate into American culture or that they may not be white enough, such

as in the case of Ahmed Hassan in 1942. His naturalization petition was rejected on account of his religious identity and being “non-white.”

Beydoun suggests Islamophobia was an easy replacement with the fall of Communism and the Soviet Union. America needed to fill the void with another outsider, and Muslims were an easy target. They were viewed negatively by most Americans.

As Harvard political scientist, Samuel P. Huntington, in *Foreign Affairs* in 1993, theorized, “The most important conflicts of the future will occur along the cultural fault lines that separate these [Islam and the West] from one another” (p 79). The U.S received justification for reinforcing its past perspective of the world: the West against everyone else.

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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.

Media Review

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By the end of the book, I sensed Beydoun wants to be hopeful, but with current circumstances fear is the determining factor for many Muslims living in America today. Wondering where and when the next terrorist attack will occur forces many Muslims to live with apprehension each day.

Khaled A. Beydoun's credentials are noteworthy. He is an Associate Professor of Law at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. He is also part of

the Senior Affiliated Faculty at the University of California-Berkeley Islamophobia Research and Documentation Project. His work is published in several law journals and his opinions have been showcased in many media outlets. In 2017, Beydoun received Community Champion of the Year recognition from the Arab American Association of New York as well as being recognized as Advocate of the Year by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee.