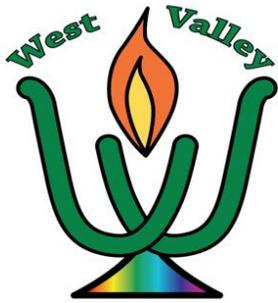


WVUU Times

November 2019

West Valley Unitarian Universalist Church



WEST VALLEY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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Gavel Talk

Emily Whitmore, President
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It's November, which means it's the time of year to start thinking about what we're thankful for.

One of the most daunting hurdles I have to try to clear this year is renewing our "Welcoming Congregation" status with the UUA. We talked about it in board meetings for a few months but made little headway. None of us really knew where to start or what the UUA was looking for.

When I got to General Assembly, I made a point to seek out a workshop on the renewal process

so I could get a clearer idea. I met with LGBTQ and Multicultural Programs Director Michael Crumpler, who de-mystified the process completely and let me know exactly what needed to be done.

So what am I thankful for? I'm thankful for Bill Dugan and Dorothy Ward, who met with me to plan a timeline of when everything was going to get accomplished. I'm thankful for the Worship Services Committee for coordinating two informative services in the last few weeks on the topic of the LGBTQ+ community. I'm thankful for Mark Oelerking for suggesting we donate to One-n-Ten during our Ingathering service. I'm thankful for all of you who donated a total of \$242.25 during the special second collection to benefit One-n-Ten.

(continued on page 3)

Sunday Services

Sunday Services begin at 10:30 a.m.
followed by a light lunch and fellowship.

Child care and religious education are available for children ages 3 and up.

November Theme: **Vision/Mission**

November 3: **Sacred Rage, by Erica Barton**

Emily Whitmore

There are so many ways to act well upon a good anger. Honor your anger and learn what it is trying to teach you. Let it lead you into courageous response. Let it be the torch that lights the way to brighter futures.

November 10: **Perfect Vision**

Rev. Cathy Corbin-Mannino

Perfect (physical) vision is considered to be 20/20. What could perfect vision mean, metaphysically, in 2020.

November 17: **What If The Hokey Pokey Really Is What It's All About?**

Rev. Susan Princehouse

"Put your right foot in and pull your right foot out... Put your whole self in and turn yourself around... That's what it's all about." How much of ourselves do we really put into our church mission?

November 24: **Mission Possible**

Rev. Cathy Corbin-Mannino

Learn about global change agents who are taking action in their communities in diverse ways, all in support of sustainable development.

Sunday Discussion Group

Everyone is welcome to join our weekly discussion group at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday morning in the office area of the Religious Education Building. UUs have more questions than answers, so don't be afraid to come and toss your thoughts into the mix.

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)

One of the final requirements in order to renew our Welcoming Congregation status is coming up this month. We need at least 10 percent of the congregation to attend a screening that addresses LGBTQ+ issues.

Please join us at 12:30 p.m. November 9 at Burton Barr Central Library, 1221 N. Central Ave., to watch "Beauty Before Age" and take part in a discussion afterward. More information about the screenings is inside this newsletter on page 6.

So what am I especially thankful for? I'm especially thankful that figuring out what to do was the hardest part of this renewal process. I'm thankful you all are so willing to put forth the necessary steps to make sure our LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters know WVUU is a place where they can belong.



September 2019 Financial Highlights

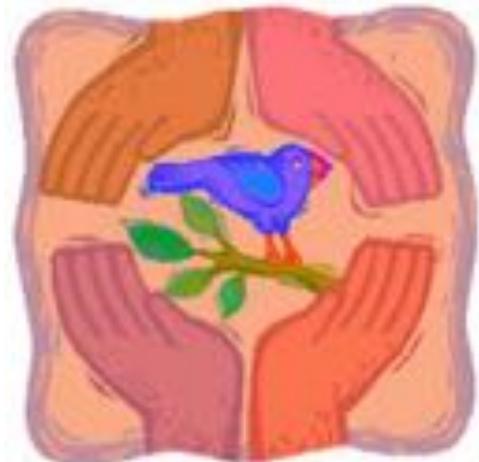
Mark Oelerking markoelerking@gmail.com

Income

Pledge income	\$2,785
Sunday Plate	\$430
Facility use income	\$131

Expenses

Bank Mortgage	\$956
Member Mortgage	\$2,339
Facilities Maintenance	\$978
Prop/Liability Insurance	\$196
Salaries/Wages	\$442
Sunday Services	\$500



Hospitality

Sharon Moore leadmoore@gmail.com

Thanksgiving Potluck

I know! We just had a big potluck for the In-Gathering, but we do like our eats, so both November and December have scheduled potlucks for the two major holidays.

Sharon Moore has clipboard sign-ups for entrees, side dishes, bread, and desserts for both the Thanksgiving and Christmas Potlucks. See her soon to get your name on the list in your favorite category!

Do you wonder why we ask you to sign up instead of just hoping for food? Well, when you sign up, you can see that all the dessert slots are filled, so maybe a side dish from you would help balance out the meal. That's a structured potluck. A "real" potluck could mean we only have dessert!

The Thanksgiving Potluck is November 24. What is your best dish to share? Looking forward to good eats that Sunday! I know what I'm bringing!

Shout Outs

A great big thank you to all the October hosts and food providers. And since we had an October In-Gathering Potluck, that includes most of you!

But a special thank you is due to Roz Cook, David Moore, Sharon Moore, Emilie Sulkes, Dorothy Ward, Morgan Oviatt, and Kitan Wihans for hosting on Sundays. The job they do making beverages, serving, and cleaning up makes our Hospitality Hour possible.

If you've always dreamed of seeing your name in the newsletter, it's as simple as signing up on Sharon Moore's clipboard to bring an entrée/ bread and/or dessert for an upcoming Hospitality Hour, our UU version of Happy Hour! Or. Maybe you could be one of our back-up hosts. We'd love to have you on our team!

Entrée/bread is covered through the end of 2019, but there are lots of open slots for 2020! Sign up early to get your pick!



Justice in Action

Stacy Fitzwater stacylfitzwater@gmail.com

Do you have a Saturday or Sunday morning, once a month or less, to visit Eloy detention center? In partnership with Puente Human Rights Movement, UJJAZ will visit detainees in Eloy to gather their stories and connect them with resources. The detention center is close to an hour away from Tucson, Phoenix, Mountain Vista, Valley UU, West Valley, and Surprise. Speaking some Spanish helps, but we can also partner you with a Spanish speaker. We will provide training, and you can either carpool from Puente in South Phoenix, or meet us at Eloy. We could also use drivers if you are able! Email Janine (UJJAZ.director@gmail.com) to be notified of the dates.

Do you like to do research on the internet? There are several opportunities to spend a few hours online to help fact-find for justice groups, before November 1st. Thanks to the Puente Fellows: Miriel, Jay, and Sandy who are leading this work at Granite Peak, Sky Island, and Phoenix. This can be done from anywhere in the state! Let Janine know if this sounds like the justice work for you (UJJAZ.director@gmail.com).

Are you open to spend a couple hours occasionally at the new Phoenix Welcome Center? Opportunities include sorting and organizing donations, serving food to families, setting up children's activities, translation, and transporting folks to the bus

station or airport. Weekends at the Welcome Center, as well as evenings at the Greyhound station (perfect for night owls!) are both needed. Contact Stacy (StacyLFitzwater@gmail.com) to get connected!

Are you available on a very occasional weekday to attend court alongside an asylum seeker? UJJAZ is starting an exciting new partnership with groups across the state for a court accompaniment network to provide advocacy and support. We get calls from UUs across the country who need help with deportation hearings in AZ. Folks needed from all corners of Arizona. Training will start at Issue + Action Day, so start there if you are attending. Even if you may possibly be interested in learning more, contact Janine (UJJAZ.director@gmail.com).

The National Organization for Women (NOW) Sun City/West Valley Chapter will meet Wednesday, November 6, 1:00 pm at the UU Church of Surprise, 17540 N. Avenue of the Arts, Surprise, AZ. The topic of the meeting is the plan for passing the ERA and volunteer opportunities available. Diane Post, head of the ERA AZ Taskforce will lead the discussion. Everyone welcome. For more information, call 623-972-6273 or visit our website: aznow-scwv.org.



STANDING ON THE SIDE OF
LOVE

LGBTQ Film Series

11/9/2019
12:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Burton Barr Central Library
 1221 N. Central Ave.

Phoenix, AZ 85004

Join the Phoenix LGBTQ Employee Alliance for an LGBTQ Film series! A discussion will follow every film screening. This film series is open to the general public. The film will be screening in the 4th floor Lecture Room.

November 9 will show a double feature with *Beauty Before Age* at 12:30 and *Scotty and the Secret History of Hollywood: The Secret Lives of Classic Hollywood Stars* at 1:15.

Beauty Before Age critically examines the pressure to look young and attractive, lack of positive older role models, and ways in which AIDS intensifies the fear and process of aging. *Beauty Before Age* offers a male perspective on a historically female issue and illuminates the larger societal obsession with physical appearance.

Scotty and the Secret History of Hollywood tells the story of Scotty Bowers, an ex-Marine who landed in Hollywood after World War II and became confidante, aide-de-camp, and lover to many of Hollywood's greatest stars. Scotty would connect his friends with actors and actresses who had to hide their true sexual identities. In 2012 he spilled his secrets in a memoir which revealed a dramatic, pre-Stonewall alternate history of Hollywood.

Got Art?



It's time to change the art display on the south sanctuary wall. Do you have framed paintings, photos, or drawings you could lend us for display?

Please contact Sandra Mahoney (s_1mahoney@cox.net) for more information.



UU Principled Minutes

Sharon Moore leadmoore@gmail.com

This month, be reflective as a way to live your principles. The following quotes, read and processed, can lead you to act and to demonstrate your commitment to the Unitarian Universalist ethical life. I'd love to talk with you about one (or more) of the quotes. Catch me or someone else at Hospitality Hour, and let's talk!

Principle 1: The inherent worth and dignity of every person

"Resentments and grudges are two of the main culprits that perpetuate cycles of self-abuse and victimhood. Stowed away inside you like parasites, they deplete you of your God-given life force and separate you from your inherent worth, your joy, and the love in your heart." – Debbie Ford

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

"I have just three things to teach: simplicity, patience, compassion. These three are your greatest treasures." – Lao Tzu

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

"A spiritual partnership is a partnership between equals for the purpose of spiritual growth. Spiritual partners use their delightful experiences together as well as their power struggles to learn about themselves and change themselves." – Gary Zukav

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

The quest for certainty blocks the search for meaning. Uncertainty is the very condition to impel man to unfold his powers. – Erich Fromm

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

"Few businessmen are capable of being in politics, they don't understand the democratic process, they have neither the tolerance or the depth it takes. Democracy isn't a business." – Malcolm Forbes

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

"I realized if you can change a classroom, you can change a community, and if you change enough communities you can change the world." – Erin Gruwell

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

"Throughout history, we have moved to the rhythms of mystery and wonder, prophecy, wisdom, teachings from ancient and modern sources, and nature herself." – Rev. Kathleen Rolenz



October WVUUC Board Meeting Highlights

Sandra Mahoney

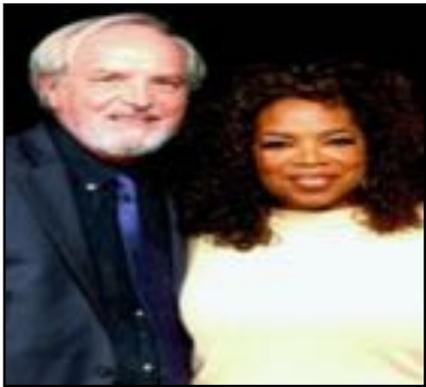
s_1mahoney@cox.net

- The Board of Trustees met on October 13, 2019. The secretary's minutes and the treasurer's reports were accepted.
- Emily Whitmore, Board President, reported that we are making progress in completing the requirements for being a Welcoming Congregation. The next requirement to complete is an educational module. WVUUC cannot afford the videos being offered, so the Board and hopefully many of our congregants are planning to attend films being offered at the Burton Barr library, 1221 N Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85004. At the current time, the Board members plan to attend the showing on Saturday, Nov. 9 of *Beauty Before Age* (12:30 PM) and *Scotty and the Secret History of Hollywood: The Secret Lives of Classic Hollywood Stars* at (1:15PM). Films are shown in the Lecture Room on the 4th floor. These LGBT films will meet the educational requirement for certification as a Welcoming Congregation. Contact any board member if you would like a ride.
- Noel Johnson reported we are generating extra power with the sanctuary solar panels and should receive some cash refund from SRP at the end of the year. As the facilities chair, he also noted that the coolers in the R.E. building are from the 1960s, and he is unsure how long they will last. Noel will work up a budget, and then we will ask for targeted donations for replacing these coolers.
- Emily Whitmore reported that the Dungeons and Dragons group is going well.
- Since we have no one in charge of fundraising, only two events are currently being planned. One is eating at a local Pollo Loco which will earn us back a percentage of what is spent. The other planned fundraiser is a garage sale at the Johnson's home in Sun City. Onna had been doing this regularly, and there are still items at Noel and Onna's home. Other donated items can be brought to the church or given to Noel. More details to follow, in the meantime, if you have items of value, please save them for the WVUUC garage sale.
- There is a need for a Vice-president or President elect on the board. Please contact any board member. There is also a need for a Stewardship chair and for someone to chair Fundraising. If you can help, please see Sandra Mahoney, Board Secretary.
- The next Board meeting is Nov. 10, 2019 at 12:00 p.m.



Media Review

Oprah Winfrey and
Thomas Moore



Reviewed by Rev. Cathy
Corbin-Mannino

When I was a young, stay-at-home mom with three toddler boys, I occasionally longed for adult conversation on topics that did not include sharing child-rearing techniques, recipes, or home decorating tips. Although I had a great deal of fun with Josh, Jess, and Joel, I functioned better when I could enjoy little breaks every now and again.

Daytime TV was full of back-to-back soap operas (yuck - couldn't do 'em), reruns of old series (although I admit that I did love Lucy), and kid shows.

Two people that provided a mental oasis for me in those days were Phil Donahue and Oprah Winfrey. I scheduled my morning housework so that I was free for a cup of tea with Phil and put the kids down for naps so it could be just Oprah and me for an hour in the afternoon.

I have never stopped following Oprah. I get her tweets, record her Super Soul Sunday program, and receive her daily eblasts all because she has influenced my spiritual path more than anyone else in my life.

Her love of literature, spirituality, and social justice resonated with me. Her guests were visionaries that seemed to be on a mission to awaken humanity to our innate kindness and great love, and they offered unique and creative ways of expressing it.

Thomas Moore, a psychotherapist and former monk, was a guest on Oprah over twenty years ago. He had written a book entitled

Care of the Soul: A Guide for Cultivating Depth and Sacredness in Everyday Life, which I read and loved. I have since read his *Soul Mates: Honoring the Mysteries of Love and Relationship*, *Dark Nights of the Soul: A Guide for Finding Your Way Through Life's Ordeals*, and, most recently, *A Religion of One's Own, A Guide for Creating a Personal Spirituality in a Secular World*.

Moore's books seemed to be exactly what I needed at the precise time in my own spiritual development. I just discovered and ordered another one of his books which speaks to my current situation. It's entitled *Ageless Soul: The Lifelong Journey to Toward Meaning and Joy*. It's described as an uplifting meditation on the art of growing older.

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.