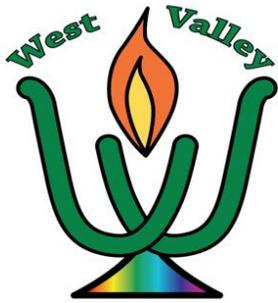


WVUU Times

February 2020

West Valley Unitarian Universalist Church



WEST VALLEY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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Gavel Talk

Emily Whitmore, President
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Last year, in the days leading up to January 1, 2019, I anxiously awaited Netflix's release of the new series, *Tidying Up with Marie Kondo*. New Years' Day we spent the whole morning watching, decluttering, and occasionally crying. It's a touching show, but let's face it, we were probably also a little sleep-deprived from the night before.

While Netflix has hinted that it's accepting applications for future seasons, no new episodes have been announced just yet. But I still think I might go back and re-

watch season one and make the first few months of the new year a time to get rid of any items in my house that don't "spark joy."

If you have never watched the show or read Marie Kondo's 2014 book, *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up*, she has very specific rules and methods to her practice. She highly recommends tackling the clutter in a specific order: clothes, books, papers, komono (miscellany), and, finally, sentimental items. This sequence is important because, according to Kondo, "Clothes are ideal for practicing this skill, while photos and other sentimental items are the epitome of what you should not touch until you have perfected it."

If you are inclined to clean out your closets along with me, I would highly encourage you to donate your clothes to the West Valley UU FUNDrive.

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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.

February Theme: **Generosity**

February 2: ***Brokenness***

Tom Begush

A sermon by our former minister, Ron Phares, on the beauty of imperfection and all of life's ugly beauty.

February 9: ***The History and Science of Generosity***

Rev. Cathy Corbin-Mannino

Is generosity simply an outdated concept or a virtue that is endangered in this society?

February 16: ***Reflections on Random Acts of Kindness***

Diane D'Agostino

This reflection will involve looking at the possibilities of helping ourselves and others through simple actions of kindness.

February 23: ***Generosity and Liberty***

Rev. Cathy Corbin-Mannino

Neither term is cause for stress or division.

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)

This is a program put on through Savers in which nonprofits receive 20 cents per pound of donated clothing. It's an easy and free way to help fund raise for the church. We will collect clothing donations throughout the month of February, at which point we will set a date with Savers to come weigh our donations in March.

"Remember: you are not choosing what to discard but rather what to keep. Keep only those things that bring you joy," Kondo says.

Let's work together to increase the concentration of joy in our own homes, as well as the joy of community this fundraiser will help us make possible.

January WVUUC Board Meeting Highlights

Sandra Mahoney s_1mahoney@cox.net

- Mark Oelerking has completed the 2019 year-end reports, 1099 forms, W-2's and is working on the calendar year pledging reports. The Garage Sale raised \$568!
- Jan is back in the office. The Board thanked Emily Whitmore and Jim Reay for helping out while she was gone.
- Facilities is going to have weed killer and pre-emergent sprayed on campus. Christmas decorations have been put away. Noel Johnson reiterated that the heat pumps in the RE building are quite old and will need replacing soon. We need to get some capital fund donations for this expense.
- Caring & Concern: Diane D'Agostino reported sending Christmas cards to two homebound members and giving assistance to Shirley's family, cards, gifts, presents.
- Hospitality: The committee now has two people for each Sunday to prepare and clean up after lunch. Barry Linden has agreed to refill water bottles as needed.
- Membership: One new member was added recently
- Our Welcoming Congregation application has been approved and is good until December 20, 2020. The Board thanked Emily Whitmore for her work on this.
- Our Annual UUA Certification is in process. Mark Oelerking has completed his part. Sandra Mahoney will complete the rest.

Hospitality

Sharon Moore leadmoore@gmail.com

Hospitality Shout Out

Thanks so much to the wonderful hosts for our January lunches: Roz Cook, Diane D’Agostino, Annette Darling, Debbie Barr, David Moore, Dorothy Ward, and Kitan Winans. Special thanks to Maryke DesChamps for washing our napkins and to Theresa Reigadas for pitching in when the kitchen was shorthanded.

Of course, there would be nothing to serve and clean up were it not for our special members and friends who bring food each week. Thanks so much to Roz Cook, Lucy Trissel, Debbie Barr, Annette and Paul Darling, Mary Lynne Shroyer, and Sharon Moore.

Hospitality Needs

Are you able to be a back-up person for hosting/clean-up? Week after week, hosts show up and do the work. But sometimes life intervenes, and we need someone to step in and help out. Could you do that on a periodic basis? If so, please contact Sharon Moore and let her put you on the list. And thanks for taking on one more thing! We are indeed “The little church that could.”

Hospitality Hour

Visitors are always impressed with our Hospitality after the service. You should be proud to be part of our welcoming place on Sundays. Our Hospitality Hour allows members, friends, and visitors to connect and get to know one another. Food brings people together in any culture.

Are you able to help this continue? The Hospitality Team tries hard to be a few months ahead. We still have food needs for a few Sundays in March and April, but no one has signed up beyond April. Can you bring something in May or beyond?

You will receive a reminder notice before your Sunday food (entrée/bread or dessert), so there’s no need to worry about forgetting a date far in advance. And if you bring food, you get a thanks in the next newsletter! How’s that for a deal?



Justice in Action

Puente Human Rights Movement. Are you interested in learning more about visiting immigrant detainees? Spaces are available on visits to the Eloy Detention Center:

- Saturday February 1, and
- Saturday February 29.

Please contact Stacy Fitzwater (StacyLFitzwater@gmail.com) for more information or to reserve a spot on an upcoming trip.

UU Day at the Legislature is on President's Day, Monday, February 17, 2020, and lasts from 9:30-3:00. This annual event involves UUs from around Arizona coming to the state capitol, 1700 West Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ. to meet in person with their state representatives and state senators. Contact uujaz.director@gmail.com for details or go to uujaz.org



Based on the feedback we've received, this year's UU Day at the Legislature will continue to focus on appointments with your legislators. We will not be encouraging folks to stay for an entire day of programming. We are asking folks who are captains in your districts to schedule their appointments between 11:00 – 1:00. We will gather for an update on the UU values in the legislature around 10:00.

December Financial Highlights

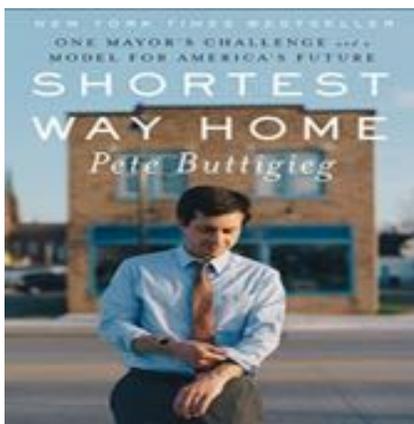
Bank Mortgage	\$956
Member Mortgage	\$2,339
Electric	\$72
Prop/Liab. Insurance	\$198
Salaries/Wages	\$345
Total expenses	\$4,167

Pledge income	\$4,703
Garage Sale	\$568
Sunday plate	\$1,004
Total income	\$6,350



Media Review

Buttigieg, P. (2019). *Shortest way home: One mayor's challenge and a model for America's future*. New York: Liveright.



Reviewed by Jim Reay

Whatever your political persuasion, if you enjoy autobiographies I'm sure there's something of interest for you in Mayor Pete's book, *Shortest Way Home*. I learned that South Bend, Indiana is less than 100 miles from Chicago, it's on the south bend of the St. Joseph River, it's the home of University of Notre Dame, and it's the former home of Studebaker automobile production.

Mayor Pete Buttigieg's father immigrated from Malta. Pete is a graduate of Harvard University and an Oxford Rhodes Scholar. He enlisted in the

U.S. Naval Reserve and became a lieutenant when he was deployed to Afghanistan.

He speaks English, Italian, Maltese, Spanish, Dari Persian, Arabic, French, and Norwegian (take my breath away!). Mayor Pete is a Christian, and he's gay, married to Chasten Glezman Buttigieg.

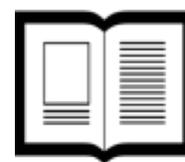
Mayor Pete recounts growing up in a Rust Belt city amid decayed factory buildings. While Washington reels in scandal, Pete challenges our perception of the typical American politician. Buttigieg is the first openly gay Democratic candidate for president, and the youngest candidate in the 2020 primary race.

Buttigieg's major policy positions include abolition of the electoral college. He supports a public health insurance option, labor unions, universal background checks for gun purchases, and a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. He advocates protecting the environment by addressing climate change, overturning the Citizens United ruling, and passing a

federal law prohibiting discrimination against LGBT people.

Joe Kennedy III, grandson of former United States Attorney General Robert F. "Bobby" Kennedy, says, "Pete Buttigieg has given more to his community and country before his fortieth birthday than most of us do over the course of our lives. At every crossroads, he has turned toward service and leveraged his energy and intellect to help his neighbors and fellow citizens. In this book, you will not only learn about what brings Pete home but what drives him toward his vision of a better, kinder nation."

If you're interested in reading this New York Times bestseller, I'll be happy to loan you my copy.



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.



June 15-21, 2020



WUULF is a week-long spiritual retreat that has field trips, workshops, and morning meditations. It has hikes, a summer solstice ceremony, and children, family and adult activities.

Go to www.wuulf.org for more information and to register.



WUULF is held at Ghost Ranch near Abiquiu, New Mexico, which is Georgia O'Keefe country.

Levels of accommodation range from camping to small cabin rooms. Communal meals allow for much interaction with the amazing UUs you meet.