

WVUU Times

March 2020

West Valley Unitarian Universalist Church



WEST VALLEY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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Gavel Talk

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There's always that one Sunday service every March that feels like you're attending a PBS telethon asking you to donate. But trust me, as uncomfortable as being solicited to makes you, 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 sale 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 such a financial nightmare for the Board of Trustees. Because discussing finances is so taboo in our society, and I was just told I could "pay what I could," I just pulled a very insignificant dollar amount out of a hat and often did not even fulfill that pledge by the end of the fiscal year. Poor Judy Armstrong had to hound me about it every time I saw her. (Sorry, Judy!)

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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.

March Theme: *Forgiveness*

March 1: **Justice in Action**

Janine Gelsinger, UJJAZ Executive Director

How do we UUs ensure our justice work is accessible, intersectional, and centers frontline communities and lives into the world we are fighting to create? Discover UJJAZ's programs for 2020 and discern how you can take action.

March 8: **Forgiveness in an Unforgiving World**

Rev. Cathy Corbin-Mannino

How do we react to bullying and betrayals without becoming “react”ionaries ourselves? Could forgiveness rather than retaliation actually be instinctual?

March 15: **On Forgiveness**

Dr. Kaden Sheffield

March 22: **The Science of Forgiveness**

Rev. Cathy Corbin-Mannino

There are multiple benefits associated with the act of forgiveness of which we may not even be aware. It appears to be a gift we offer another, but it really is an inside job.

March 29: **Why Hawaiian Indigenous Faith Matters**

Prof. George Williams, adopted (*hanaied*) elder (*kupuna*)

Kanenuiakea is an indigenous Hawaiian spiritual faith and practice. After a century of being shamed and persecuted, this faith has begun an uneasy path sharing its spiritual treasures with those of good will.

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

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

It turns out the average cost per Sunday service, just to keep all the bills paid, is \$1,200. This means an average pledge should be 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 that, which is how we've been able to stay afloat 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 your pledges.

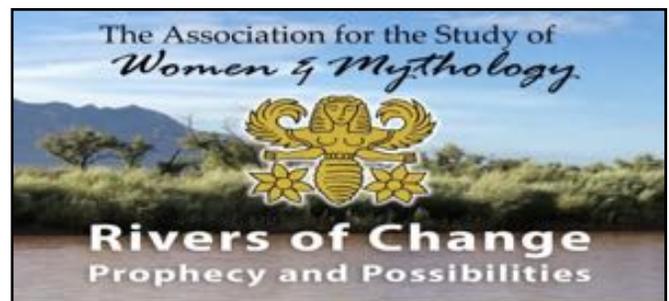
Besides, WVUUC isn't some overpriced frivolous sparkly thing that will turn your ring finger green if you wear it too long. It's our community; it gives us what we need to live a life of love and courage. And when you think of it this way, \$30 per week is quite a bargain!

Rivers of Change

Biennial Conference of
Association for the Study
of Women and Mythology

March 13-14, 2020

Tamaya Resort, Santa Ana Pueblo
(north of Albuquerque NM)



Topics: Water Ecology, Animal Wisdom, Pilgrimage, Ecofeminism, Matriarchal Studies, Goddess Mythology, Biblical Heroines, Visionary Arts, Women in Film

Featured speakers:

- Judy Grahn, "Living in a Sentient World"
- Dr. Annette Williams, "the feminine power of àjé"
- Luci Tapahonso, Poet Laureate of the Navajo Nation

- Isadora Leidenfrost with her film "*Herstory: The Visionary Life of Lydia Ruyle*"
- Max Dashu, "Prophetic Women"
- Jane Caputi with her film on ecofeminism, "*Feed the Green*"
- and special guests from the Santa Ana Pueblo

For information and registration, visit the [Women and Myth](https://womenandmyth.org/events/) website (<https://womenandmyth.org/events/>).

Hospitality

Sharon Moore leadmoore@gmail.com

Hospitality Shout Outs

Another month of spectacular contributions from our wonderful congregation! We could not have our weekly spread of lunch without the hard-working hosts who make coffee, set up the serving ware, and clean up afterwards.

Thanks to Maryke DesChamps for napkin washing duty. And thanks to hosts Roz Cook, Kay Vogt, Dorothy Ward, Annette Darling, Theresa Reigadas, and Sharon and David Moore.

Of course, the Hospitality Team also appreciates the delicious food provided each week. In February, dishes were prepared by Sandra Mahoney and Barry Linden, Emilie Sulkes, Cara Lancellotti, Annette and Paul Darling, Roz Cook, Janet Wandrey, Mary Lynne Shroyer, and Burt Neiman. Thanks so much for your contributions!

Hospitality Needs

Summer is coming! Sharon Moore won't be around to wave her clipboard or stalk you to get sign-ups for food, so let's see how fast we can fill up the food needs for May and following months NOW! Summer has fewer people attending services, but that also means fewer people available to provide food.

Could you do one or more KISS meals? We're all about Keep It Simple Summer foods. Could you, would you help out? Track down Sharon and sign-up for your special date!



WUULF is a week-long spiritual retreat **June 15-21, 2020** that has field trips, workshops, and planned and spontaneous hikes. It has morning meditations, reflection time, a summer solstice ceremony, family and adult activities, happy hour gatherings, and fun night activities.

WUULF is held at Ghost Ranch near Abiquiu, New Mexico. The stunning setting

in Georgia O'Keefe country is a spiritual experience, itself.

Levels of accommodation range from camping to small cabin rooms. Communal meals allow for interaction with the various people you'll connect with.

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



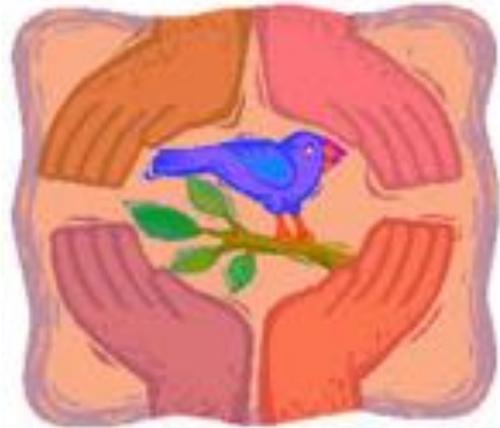
The National Organization for Women (NOW) Sun City/West Valley Chapter will meet Wednesday, March 4, 1:00 pm at the UU Church of Surprise, 17540 N. Avenue of the Arts, Surprise, AZ. The speaker will be Jamie Aragon of Planned Parenthood's Cultural Affairs. Everyone is welcome.

For more information, visit our website (aznow-scvv.org) or call 623-972-6273.

The NOW Sun City/West Valley Chapter also will hold a celebration of 100 years of women voting in our country. This Women's History Month event will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2:00 pm at the UU Church of Surprise, 17540 N. Avenue of the Arts, Surprise, AZ. The movie, *9 to 5* starring Lilly Tomlin, Dolly Parton, and Jane Fonda, will be shown followed by Celebration Cake. Donations will be taken at the door.

January Financial Highlights

Pledge income	\$2,337
Sunday plate	\$567
Zimmerman concert	\$181
<u>Facility use</u>	<u>\$130</u>
Total income	\$3,215
Salaries/Wages	\$475
Bank Mortgage	\$956
Member Mortgage	\$2,339
Tel./Internet	\$119
<u>Prop/Liab. Insurance</u>	<u>\$198</u>
Total expenses	\$4,385



STANDING ON THE SIDE OF

LOVE

Media Review

Hoff, B. (1982). *The Tao of Pooh*. New York: Dutton Books.



Reviewed by Sharon Moore

Having read A.A. Milne's books to my first graders and later to my own children, I've been a long-time fan of the characters and their adventures in *Winnie-the-Pooh* and *The House at Pooh Corner*.

I've heard of Benjamin Hoff's *The Tao of Pooh* for decades, but I only got around to reading it recently as part of my quest for spiritual identity. I knew that Hoff's book has been called "the Taoist book for Westerners" because it artfully uses Milne's simple stories to illustrate Taoist principles. Not all of Tao, of course, but Hoff portrays major principles of "The Way."

Hoff has an impressive background in Taoism, having studied for decades with many different practitioners. He scoffs at those academics who parse every word in Taoism, looking for truths. He says the truths are obvious if people would only change their academic Rabbit and Owl ways and see the overarching principles that hold Taoism together.

According to Hoff, the book is about "how to stay calm and happy in all circumstances." Pooh is an exemplar of that way of living. While some see Pooh, "a Bear of Very Little Brain," as simple, maybe too simple, Hoff shows that Pooh's simplifying of life to its essentials is consistent with Taoist philosophy.

The Tao of Pooh opens with *The Vinegar Tasters* image showing how Confucius, the Buddha, and Lao-Tse react after tasting vinegar. Each reaction is tied to the fundamentals of each person's philosophy. Confucius finds the vinegar sour, meaning that life is out of balance and to restore balance one must revere ancestors and look to the past to guide the future.

The Buddha finds the vinegar bitter, like a life filled with attachments that cause suffering. He wants to transcend this life of desire and follow a path to Nirvana.

But Lao-Tse is smiling because he finds the taste satisfying, representing the harmony between Heaven and Earth that could be found by anyone at any time. Go with the flow. Don't fight what is. Rather, find the joy and satisfaction in what is.

Hoff says the characters in the Pooh books represent various aspects of Taoism's interferences with living The Way. For instance, Owl often overthinks things, and Rabbit and Eeyore often fret about existence.

Pooh is an example of effortless *wu wei*, which refers to doing, and *p'u*, the concept of natural human nature being open to experiences.

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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.

Tao of Pooh

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Hoff even makes the point that *p'u* is similar in sound to *Pooh*, which he takes as evidence of the connection of Pooh to Taoism.

The examples Hoff uses from the Pooh books are interspersed with invented dialogues where he shows how Pooh is living in a Taoist-compatible way. For instance, the principle of the Uncarved Block is the ability to enjoy the simple and quiet things in life, the natural and the plain. It involves doing things spontaneously and having them work out because you're not making it more complex than it is.

Hoff ties another Taoist principle to Pooh's song, *Cottleston Pie*, demonstrating that things are what they are, and you can't change them, so accept them for what they are. Frustrating yourself when a square peg doesn't fit a round hole only brings unhappiness. Accepting that everything has its own inner nature is the better path. Pooh never overcomplicates things or tries to change them from what they fundamentally are.

Hoff's bottom line is to appreciate who you are and what you have to be truly happy. Discontent comes from fighting what is and from over-complicating the issues that arise in our lives. "The Way" is the path to peace, contentment, and satisfaction.