



West Valley UU Times



West Valley Unitarian Universalist Church

May 2012

Founded December 1983

Contact Information

Church: info@wvuu.org
623.846.6004

Please leave a message, and we'll get back to you.

Pastor: Ron Phares
minister @wvuu.org
512.663.4364

Board of Trustees

Ann Harper, President
president @wvuu.org

President-Elect, vacant

Onna Johnson, Secretary
onnaj @cox.net

Mitch James, Treasurer
treasurer @wvuu.org

Wayne Daniel, At-Large
wayne-daniel @live.com

At-Large, vacant

Go-to People:

Facilities: Terry Mead
Worship Services: Dorothy Ward & Kathy Abramowitz
Membership: Louise Slotta
Stewardship: Valerie Lynch
Religious Education: Tom Begush
Circle Suppers: Betsy Timmerman
Hospitality: Joy Bowen
Caring: Barbara Kovach
Justice GA 2012: Donniss Deever
Leadership Development: vacant
Social Action: vacant
Administrator: wvuu @qwestoffice.net

Where Do We Want West Valley to Take Us? Where Will We Take West Valley?

Nick Reachmack and I participated in the New Member class last month. We joined eight other people who recently joined, or are exploring the possibility of joining, West Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. What a wonderful time we had. "UU" is an amazing faith tradition and West Valley has so much to offer as a faith community. I am so glad to be here!

Our 2012-2013 Pledge campaign is underway. The Stewardship Team has spoken to about 40% of the congregation so far and the conversations are ongoing. It is rewarding to hear so many great responses. We hope to have the first part of our work, collecting our pledge sheets, completed by May 1. Let's plan and dream together.

If you haven't pledged yet, please give thought to what it is that you can do to keep West Valley a refuge for the newcomer, a garden in which Truth can grow, and a forum for our progress. Thank you for being West Valley.

Valerie Lynch

Immigration Policy and Programs

Around 11 million undocumented immigrants are living and working within U.S. borders without a path to citizenship. Our focus on enforcement-only policies has not reduced that number, but has led to the tearing apart of families, human rights abuses and even death.

- ◇ Families wait years, sometimes decades, to be reunited due to tremendous [Visa Backlogs](#).
- ◇ [Flawed Guest Worker Programs](#) leave migrant laborers vulnerable to exploitation.
- ◇ Human rights are violated by unjust [Raids and Detention](#).
- ◇ Thousands have died due to [Militarization of the Border](#).
- ◇ [State and Local](#) governments are writing their own, piecemeal legislation, such as [SB 1070 in Arizona](#).
- ◇ [ICE ACCESS programs](#) have co-opted local law enforcement officials into federal immigration enforcement.

Ultimately, [federal legislation](#) is necessary to fix this broken system. For more information contact [socialjustice @ uaa.org](mailto:socialjustice@uaa.org).

From Our Minister

Freedom stinks.

I know this because I just took part in a march that lasted for 2 hours or more. The march was to express indignation for SB1070 and support for the people affected adversely by it. And by the way, we are ALL affected adversely by it, some more directly than others, but all in the end. At any rate, the march was peopled by all flavors of humanity: old, young, people of many heritages, sizes and political comfort zones. Yet we were all there to raise our voices up to god, the supreme court, sheriff Joe and all the rest, that people deserve to be treated fairly and with respect. We were there to celebrate our inherent dignity and worth. We were there to demand freedom from cruel legislation.

And I can tell you now, that freedom stinks. I can say this because, while we may have looked like a diverse crowd, after a 4-hour march, we all pretty much smelled the same. Equality of body odor.

It's crass. It's crude. It's totally human. Dignity yes, but stinkiness too. And in fact, the stinkiness was produced by work, by effort, by commitment. And so, in that way, there may be no dignity without b.o. Dignity may be natural and inherent. But it takes work to safeguard it. Heck, sometimes it takes work to recognize it in others. It may even take a Herculean effort to recognize it in your own self!

So here is the theological irony under which we live our days: we are *inherently* worthy. But it takes work to fully live that which is inherent. I'm not sure how that makes any sense. But there you have it, summed up in a bumper sticker that I disdain: Freedom isn't free.

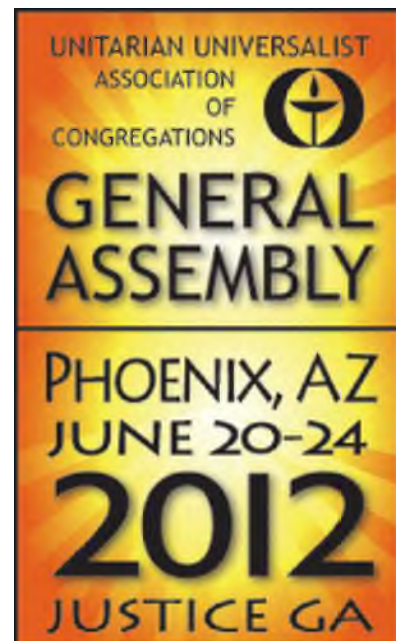
Well, its certainly not fragrance free.

While at the march, several people planted themselves in the street outside the jail where people were being held as they awaited deportation. They blocked the road. More importantly, they blocked the driveway out of the jail, the driveway that a bus would be using to take people away from their families and into a country that could not sustain them.



These people were arrested in order to demonstrate their solidarity and to raise the stakes in the consciousness of those there to witness and those who would read about it later. They were there to show us what courage looked like. They were in for a long night. It was going to stink. But then, freedom does.

General Assembly is just around the corner. I urge you all to involve yourself in any way you can. Some events are free and open to the public. We will mostly listen and learn. We will also witness and express ourselves. You should go. It's going to stink.



General Assembly in Phoenix, Arizona June 20-24, 2012

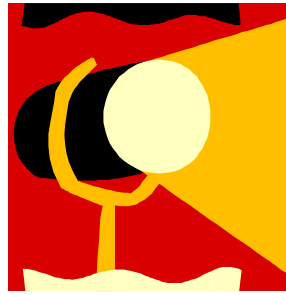
General Assembly (GA) 2012 will be a gathering with multiple ways of engaging in justice work for people of all ages. Joining with the people of Arizona, we will worship, witness, learn and work together. We will leave General Assembly grounded in our faith, energized for justice and with resources to bring this work home to our congregations.

Service and Witness

We will partner with communities in Arizona to bring attention to the injustices and human rights abuses they face. Our service will allow all participants to witness in ways that reflect our commitment to justice, equity and compassion for all. We will also do hands-on work with our community partners. Projects will take place in a variety of settings, and include multigenerational teams and accessible venues. Whether you choose to witness for one hour, make signs for people to carry, or spend a day at a project, there will be opportunities for everyone.

Programs and Workshops

We will learn how to build stronger relationships, community partnerships, and movements for justice. We will go in-depth on important justice issues such as colonization, border issues and advocacy. We encourage teams to attend General Assembly in order to share experiences and learn how to continue this work at home.



The Work of Justice

Our business will be grounded in our faith tradition's commitment to justice. Plenary sessions will be limited to matters essential to the governance of our Association and items that further our justice-making efforts. The exhibit hall will offer justice resources and opportunities to connect with local communities.

Spirit and Community

Filled with joy and boldness, we will sing, we will worship, and we will celebrate together. We will have spiritual support and reflection as we build a just world. Together, we will create a beloved community without borders.

Regarding Civil Disobedience

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), GA Planning Committee and Arizona Immigration Ministry are not planning actions of civil disobedience for Justice GA. In addition, our local partners have not asked us to engage in civil disobedience. Planning and attention is focused on creating powerful and effective witness events that will articulate our religious values and commitments to human rights and human dignity for all.

<http://www.uua.org/ga/2012/index.shtml>

Albertson's

Key chain tags are on the entry table. When the clerk scans the tag while ringing up your order, WVUUC gets a percentage of your purchase from Albertson's.

NOW, SURF & SHOP!

iGive.com

Go to iGive.com whenever you are shopping on-line. Use their features to search for what you want at cooperating merchants. Tell iGive.com that you are contributing to "West Valley Unitarian Universalist." iGive.com will show you the percentage that WVUUC will get if you purchase from a particular merchant. If you **install the iGive.com toolbar**, and use it for searches, WVUUC will earn a penny for each search.

Gavel Talk

Sometimes I think it would be more practical to move to the west valley, especially when I'm filling up at the pumps. But then there's so much going on at WVUUC these days and I want to miss as little as possible. Much of the activity has been directed at educating ourselves on issues relevant to the Justice General Assembly in June:

- ◇ The two-part workshop, "The House We Live In," was designed to foster a deeper understanding of the role of institutional racism in the United States; and focus on the impact of immigration legislation such as SB1070 on Arizona communities, the role of activism across the state, and how to create next steps in the struggle for human rights.
- ◇ The six-part series, "Immigration as a Moral Issue," began with the historical migration of peoples and its reasons, through U. S. immigration history, cultural and economic factors, NAFTA effects, a history of border enforcement and detention centers, to international and global realities and humane immigration reform. The program was extended one more week, Valerie Lynch hosted a Seder as a remembrance to those who had suffered immigration injustices.
- ◇ May 10, there will be a showing of the recent *Frontline* film, "Lost in Detention." If you missed this startling presentation on "for profit" prisons, do plan to attend.

the new year we chuckled and guffawed our way through the Roy Zimmerman Concert. We hosted a wine and cheese social to welcome newcomers. And there was the Variety Show; what fun! A newly formed Memoir Group shares what it was like to emigrate to America from post WWII Europe, the chagrin of growing up left-handed, the fun and nonsense of being a vendor at a Renaissance Faire. Ten new and potential members attended the first session of the *New to UU* class lead by Pastor Ron. And let's not forget Circle Suppers – the breaking of bread, the opening up with new people in our midst.

What I'm trying to say here is, we've revived a lot of spirit in our church community. It is so refreshing, welcoming new folks; discovering new things about – I guess I better not say "old folks" – but you know what I mean. With summer on its way, many will be leaving for cooler climes. Do stay in touch; we've established a momentum that we want to hang on to through the summer.

We'll be active at General Assembly (I think we need a post-GA celebration of some sort for *that*); and do plan on making it to the family campout this summer. It will be a July date; Terry has already begun making arrangements.

There are amazing possibilities on the horizon. And that's the direction we're always heading.

Ann Harper

It hasn't all been workshops and forums. Early in



Nick treats the Memoir Group to recollections of a Washington D.C. childhood.

L-R: Maryke, Tom, Joe, Roz, Nick and Sandra.

Arizona State Legislature

Our legislature is in session. What they do affects you individually, and as a member of this church and community.

There is a listing of legislators on the sign-up table.

This site, azleg.gov, is useful for finding your legislator and checking up on pending legislation. Many of the bills could affect schools, social services, general safety from lax gun laws, taxation, etc.

Many organizations and advocacy groups also have a Web presence and are eager to provide information on their issues.

AZ Republican Party: azgop.org
 AZ Democratic Party: azdem.org
 Children's Action Alliance: azchildren.org

If you have trouble finding a Web presence for a particular organization or issue, contact Wayne Daniel. He may be able to help.

There is an excellent feature in the Arizona Republic called "Fact Check". The paper takes a "claim" made by a group or candidate, researches its truthfulness, and publishes the findings. It is a rational and thorough look at otherwise misleading statements. It is usually in section "B", and is also online at azcentral.com. From the home page click **Politics > Fact Check**.



PSWD Assembly

The Pacific Southwest District Assembly met in Los Angeles this past weekend. It was pretty amazing to see 350 UU's chatting and singing and learning from each other. Pastor Ron Phares and Donnis Deever represented West Valley at the assembly.

This year's meeting was titled "Beyond Borders" and, of course, was tied to the upcoming General Assembly of the whole UUA, which will be held in June in Phoenix.

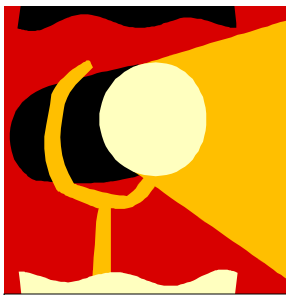
The keynote address on Friday night was given by Ruben Martinez, an activist, author, and researcher who is highly involved in the issues of border justice. Being half-Salvadoran and half-Mexican has given him a unique understanding of "crossing borders" of language, culture, politics, and geography.

First Unitarian Church of LA sits in the midst of lively cultural and language diversity. This lovely old church now serves its community under Pastor Hoyt in amazing ways, including a child care center, a food bank that supports over 600 families, language courses, path to citizenship courses, and many more. It is the first bi-lingual UU church in the district.

The assembly was addressed in Spanish and we sang in Spanish with current members. Saturday consisted of workshops tied to the theme of justice such as "Justice is what love looks like in public." West Valley's banner was proudly displayed in the parade of banners on opening night. A great event for you all to be part of. Next year the format will change and our district will be part of a REGIONAL assembly in San Jose.

Donnis Deever





Spotlight
on
Justice
GA 2012

2012 Registration Rates	Late Registration May 1 - June 24
Adult Full-time (Wednesday-Sunday)	\$365
Adult One-day **	\$145
*Youth (Grades 9-12) Full-time (Wednesday-Sunday)	\$220
*Youth (Grades 9-12) One-day **	\$90

*Youth registration rates are offered to those who were enrolled in grades 9-12 (or the equivalent for home-schooled youth) for the 2011-2012 school year, OR were born between 06/20/94 and 06/25/98 (age 14-17 during GA).

**Wednesday, June 20, and Thursday, June 21, have been combined for the purpose of registration and are being offered together at the One-day registration rate.

Registration is available here:

<http://www.uua.org/ga/registration/index.shtml>

Volunteers were notified of their acceptance in April, before the May 1 registration rate increase.

Remember the Food Bank!

I would like to remind everyone to bring food for the Food Bank to church. The Wixons have kindly volunteered to deliver the food, but they tell me we have not had *that* much to deliver.

Please check your pantries just before you leave your house to come to church, and grab a few things to bring with you.

Thanks.

Mary Lynne Shroyer



May Board Meeting

DATE CHANGE

The Board of Trustees will meet at **12:00 pm., Sunday, May 6**, in the sanctuary. The change was made to accommodate Mother's Day. Congregation members are always welcome. **Committee chairs or representatives are urged to attend.** Your input into policy decisions and congregational activities is vital.

GOSSIP



Google calendar

This is the application that our on-line calendar at wvu.u.org uses .

If you also use Google Calendar, you can link to the church's calendar so that WVUU events show up on your calendar. And no, people viewing the WVUU calendar cannot see what is on yours.

On the left side of the Google Calendar screen, it says "Other Calendars." Click on the "+" to expand the list, then type "wvuumembers@gmail.com" in the box that says "Add a friend's calendar."

Editor's Notes

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, let me know. 602.380.5608 (cell); wayne-daniel@live.com; 19225 N. Cave Creek Rd. #64, Phoenix, AZ 85024.

You can receive the Newsletter by email or snail-mail, or both, and you can change methods at any time.

Stories, announcements, photographs, links, and comments are accepted at all times. The **deadline** for the June newsletter is **Friday, May 25**.

Getting material in on time is critical.

May Birthdays

2nd - Barry Linden
7th - Stephanie Badilla
11th - Doug Pope
21st - Eric Des Champs
22nd - Diane Snyder
24th - Suzie Howell
30th - Elaine King



Anniversaries

25th - Bill & Kathy Dugan
26th - Larry & Mia Lorenzen



If yours is not listed, that is because the Administrator does not have the information.

May 2012

Apr. 29 10:30 am Wor- ship ~	30 7:30 pm Men's Al-Anon Group, RE	May 1 7:00 pm Zen Meditation-S	2 7:00 pm Sono- ran Audubon Society Board - RE	3	4 9:00 am First Friday Break- fast, Denny's, I-17 & Dunlap	5 8:00 am Adventurers' <u>Club</u> Cinco de Mayo 
May 6 10:30 am Wor- ship 12:00 pm: Board of Trustees	7 7:30 pm Men's Al-Anon Group, RE	8 7:00 pm Zen Meditation-S	9 7:00 pm Sono- ran Audubon <u>Society - S</u> 7:00 pm New to UU, Part II - RE	10	11	12 8:00 am Build- ing & Grounds 10:00 am Wor- ship Services Cmte - RE
13 10:30 am Wor- ship: Cottonwood Stone Mother's Day 	14 7:30 pm Men's Al-Anon Group, RE	15 6:30 pm Memoir Writ- ing Group- <u>RE</u> 7:00 pm Zen Meditation-S	16	17 10:00 am Mem- bership Cmte-S	18	19 8:30 am: Lead- ership Retreat - O
20 10:30 am Wor- ship: 12:00 pm CONGRATION- AL MEETING	21 7:30 pm Men's Al-Anon Group, RE	22 7:00 pm Zen Meditation-S	23	24	25 Newsletter Input Dead- line	26
27 10:30 am Wor- ship: Mitch James 	28 7:30 pm Men's Al-Anon Group, RE MEMORIAL DAY	29 7:00 pm Zen Meditation-S	30	31	Jun. 1 9:00 am First Friday Break- fast, Denny's, I-17 & Dunlap	2 8:00 am Adventurers' Club
Jun. 3 10:30 am Wor- ship	4 7:30 pm Men's Al-Anon Group, RE	5 7:00 pm Zen Meditation-S	6 7:00 pm Sono- ran Audubon Society - S	7	8	9 8:00 am Build- ing & Grounds 10:00 am Wor- ship Services Cmte - RE

April Speakers and Topics

May 6: "The God Problem," Pastor Phares

Theistic UU's often struggle with what God means. Non-theistic UU's struggle with theistic UU's. Like it or not "God" is a pivot point for how we consider ourselves religious. Is there a way to do this that is inclusive of our theological diversity and STILL wise? Let's try and find out.

May 13, Mother's Day: "Loving Moms through the Joy and the Pain," Cottonwood Stone

Every mother/child relationship is perfect in its very own way and brings to us the exact experience we need for our individual growth and lessons. It is easy to honor the mother during the joy. How do we honor the mother through the pain?

May 20: "Inevitable Reverence," Pastor Phares

Watch yourself. Can you even control what you worship? If not, what does that say about our position in the web of life? If so, how?

May 27, Memorial Day: "Why We Believe in Electrons and Fairies," Mitch James



If you need to use the church's audio-visual equipment to make a presentation, you'd better check it the day before to be sure you know how to make it do what you want.

Congregational Meeting May 20, 2012

Adopt a budget for 2012-2013.

Elect President, President-Elect, At-Large Member, to Board of Trustees.

Elect Committee Chairpersons as recommended by the Leadership Development Committee.

Get your after-service snacks quickly so we can start as early as possible.

Join the Yahoo! group for news and announcements. Email Sandra Mahoney, sdmphd@cox.net, to join.



facebook

Facebook group: **West Valley UU Church** - open to all

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/wvuuc/>

Please have wvuumembers@gmail.com on your approved senders list to receive news and events information.



Make contributions to West Valley via PayPal on the Membership tab of wvu.org, or from your PayPal account to wvuumembers@gmail.com.



Adventurers' Club



Our first 100+ degree days signal the time to move our hikes to higher elevations.

On May 5, we'll attack the Salida Gulch loop trail (and look for petroglyphs) near Lynx Lake east of Prescott, followed by an early dinner near downtown Prescott. Save the date. Detailed information will follow.

You will be able to meet us at the trailhead or meet at 7 a.m. to form carpools and caravans at the Paradise Bakery & Café, 67th Avenue and Beardsley Road (just off Loop 101).

In the meantime, enjoy the photos of the two crested saguaros we spotted along Cave Creek on our April hike, including the gnarly monster on the left and the magnificent crown, below.

Terry Mead

tmead @ meadandassociates.com



Zen Meditation

A weekly Zen meditation service returns to WVUUC at 7 p.m. Tuesday, in the Sanctuary. Mui Carl Alexander has revived the practice that had been led by former member Randy Nowell before Randy's move to California. The service will be held at the same time every Tuesday. If coming for the first time, arrive 15 minutes early for orientation. 602.429.2212 mui @cox.net.





Our Unitarian Universalist Principles

There are seven principles which Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote:

The inherent worth and dignity of every person;

Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;

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

The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Unitarian Universalism (UU) draws from many sources:

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;

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;

Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;

Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;

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;

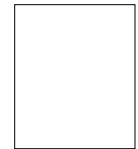
Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

These principles and sources of faith are the backbone of our religious community.

<http://www.uua.org/beliefs/principles/index.shtml>



**WEST VALLEY UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
5904 W. CHOLLA ST.
GLENDALE AZ 85304-3205**



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



COVENANT

Love is the doctrine of our church.

The quest for truth is our holy rite;

And service is our prayer.

To dwell together in peace;

To seek knowledge in freedom;

To serve humankind in friendship;

Thus do we covenant.



**We are a welcoming
congregation**

MISSION

The West Valley Unitarian Universalist Church provides a safe place to :

Celebrate diversity,

Draw inspiration for our lives,

Foster social and environmental justice, and

Compassionately support each other in our spiritual searches.

SERVICES

Our Sunday Services begin at 10:30 a.m., followed by a coffee house style fellowship hour.

Child care is available.

Children's religious education takes place at the same time as the second half of the service.