



West Valley UU Times



West Valley Unitarian Universalist Church

May 2014

Founded December 1983

Contact Information

Church:

info@westvalleyuu.org

623.846.6004

Office staffed Monday and Friday mornings. Please leave a message, and we'll get back to you.

Board of Trustees

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Onna Johnson, President-Elect
onnaj@cox.net

Roz Cook, Secretary
rozcooksalot@gmail.com

Julie Tennant, Treasurer
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Diana Barker, At-Large
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Go-to People:

Facilities: Noel Johnson
Worship Services: Dorothy Ward

Membership & Caring: Elizabeth Skinner

Stewardship: Valerie Lynch
Religious Education: Donnis Deever, adults; Nancy Stier, children

Circle Suppers: Ann Harper
Hospitality: Dianne Rodgers
Leadership Development: Board of Trustees

Social Action: Trustees
Communications: Wayne Daniel

Office Administrator: Ann Harper
wvu5904@gmail.com

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, May 18

Following Service and Fellowship

Gavel Talk

Hello Friends,

Because our President, Valerie Lynch, is busy in her "other" Church in New York, she has asked me as acting president to do a little "Gavel Talk" this month.

The first thing I want to mention is what a GREAT job our Worship Services Committee has been doing for us. Every Sunday I am amazed and so thankful for the Sunday Service. Someday we will be able to afford at least a part time Pastor, meantime, for me, our totally lay-led Congregation is a blessing.

As our pledge drive draws to a close at the end of April, our Treasurer, Julie Tennant, will be drafting budget for Fiscal Year 2014-15. This is the budget that will be presented at the congregational meeting on May 18. Our pledge drive has increased pledges from approximately \$28,000 to \$35,000.

And speaking of pledge drives, as of April 20, 4 fewer individuals/couples have pledged than last year, BUT, our pledge total to date is \$1,000 more than last year. AND

we have additional pledges totaling \$7,450 for the New Building Fund! You will note that our goal was set a little higher this year as EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS as we continue to grow.

Now, I don't want to give you the wrong idea folks. A little-known fact is that FEWER than 50% of our members pledge. We hope that by the time this is published, we will have heard from more people who are willing and able. *No matter how small the pledge*, it is a message that you value the community spirit that WVUUC has to offer, and you are willing to give back to keep our church going in a positive direction.

By the time this newsletter is published, West Valley will have been represented by Lisa Cook at South-west Pacific District Annual Meeting in San Diego on April 25-26. Thank you Lisa, we look forward to hearing from you about your trip to San Diego.

Respectfully,

Onna Johnson

President Elect/Acting President

NOTES OF INTEREST FROM THE BOARD

Number 431 was the reading for our chalice lighting at the our April 13th meeting:

“May we be reminded here of our highest aspirations, and inspired to bring our gifts of life and service to the altar of humanity.

“May we know once again that we are not isolated beings but connected, in mystery and miracle, to the universe, to this community and to each other.”

There was a continuation of last month’s discussion about two different sections of our by-laws.

The first section deals with President-elect (PART III, Article 1, Section A, Subsection 2).

Reason for suggested change: In attempting to recruit candidates for President-elect for fiscal year 2014-15, the leadership committee has not found anyone who is willing to consider running for the position. We have several people who are willing to serve as Vice President, without the promise to two additional years serving as President, as President-elect requires. After discussion with members who have been with West Valley for many years, we understand that this has been an issue in the past and some who have committed to being President-elect have not been able or willing to fulfill the additional term of two years as President.

The Board is considering a recommendation to

the congregation to change the by-laws to read **“President-elect OR Vice President....”** and add to the end of the present description **“If no member is willing to serve as President-elect, the Leadership Committee may recruit candidates to run to serve as Vice President without a promise to eventually become President.”**

The second section that was discussed deals with membership contributions (PART II, Article 1, Section A, Subsection D).

The minimum monetary contribution requirements in our present by-laws are equal to our Fair Share to Unitarian Universalist Association and the Pacific Southwest District each year (approximately \$95 per member per year). There was discussion if there should be a **minimum requirement, no pledge requirement, or offer of a waiver for those individuals who feel that any minimal amount is more than they can afford.**

These by-laws issues will be on the agenda for our May 4 board meeting for a decision whether to present these potential changes at the Congregational meeting May 18.

Following a decision made at the April board meeting, Shannon Bailes was approached and has begun training to be the substitute office administrator.

Onna Johnson

Sermon Videos

Mitch James has been making video recordings of most sermons, and has uploaded them to YouTube, and to westvalleyuu.org.



In westvalleyuu.org, click on “Sermons.”

Thank You, Mitch and Corielle!

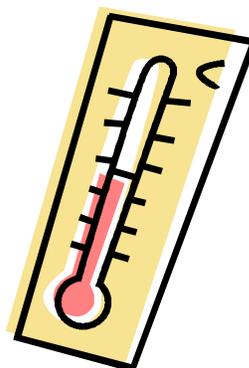
Stewardship Pledge

Campaign

\$45,000 Goal

\$38,000 (84%)

as of April 25



LONG RANGE PLANNING: SANCTUARY

Since the last newsletter, West Valley has negotiated a new mortgage. It paid off the mortgage with the dreaded balloon payment that came due in February. The new loan is at 3/4% less interest than previous loan and the payment is approximately \$200 less per month. We have 5 years to get the building finished and refinanced. First Fidelity Bank is interested in refinancing when we are ready. The great news is that our church property was appraised at over \$400,000 BEFORE our new sanctuary!

We are still in the building permit process with the City of Glendale. We remain optimistic that In-gathering Sunday in September is a reasonable date for our first meeting in our new building. It's heartening to realize that many are feeling ownership of our building project as we have at least \$7,500 new pledges toward the new sanctuary and expect more by the time the pledge drive ends April 30th.



Slow and steady wins the race, eventually .

An Invitation

We have a “**Letters to the Editor**” section in this newsletter. Any subject is fair game, however those relating to members and friends, West Valley UUC, or Unitarian Universalism in general will receive priority.

Anonymous letters and *ad hominem* attacks will not be published.

Send letters to wvuumembers@gmail.com, or mail to: West Valley UU Times, 5904 W Cholla St, Glendale AZ 85304. As with all newsletter material, the deadline is the 25th of each month.

Wayne Daniel

West Valley UUC Discussion Films

Thursday Night at the Movies concluded with a film very much appreciated by the audience on April 10. “A Better Life” is a compelling film about the vulnerable lives of an undocumented immigrant and his American citizen son. The man is simply trying to build a better life here for his family. Mary Lynne Shroyer was moved by the film and thanked Donnis for bringing it to West Valley. Laurie Allen, a recent addition to West Valley, was also affected by the film. The discussion following the film allowed Nick Reachmack to give us an emotional account of meeting recently-released detainees at the public bus station in Phoenix. The film and discussion allowed us all to consider more compassionately the plight of those seeking "a better life".

Thursday Night at the Movies will resume in October - second Thursday of each month.

Donnis Deever

Shared Plate Sunday

At West Valley, the second Sunday of each month is Shared Plate Sunday. Half of all cash collected during the offertory, unless enclosed in an envelope and designated for another purpose, goes to further the work of a local charitable community organization. **St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance** will be the Shared Plate recipient on **May 11**.



Make contributions to West Valley via PayPal to wvuumembers@gmail.com, or at westvalleyuu.org.



Letters

Dear Editor,

We have made a lot of progress with our landscaping issues in the past couple of months. Jim Reay and Ann Harper sponsored a cleanup of the landscape earlier this year. THANKS again, Jim and Ann. Glenn Snyder and I have worked on other issues including dead branches on the trees around the covered patio area and the watering system.

We are asking again for more help from our congregation. Please consider participating in clean-up on the second Saturday morning each month. (Last month Glenn was there by himself Saturday morning when I showed up for an afternoon of work.) Nancy Stier does work on Sunday after service cleaning and planting. THANKS, Nancy. We do appreciate every willing helping hand.

Sincerely,

Noel Johnson, Facilities Committee Chair



August Family Camp Out

It may seem a bit early, but you might want to note on your calendars that reservations for the family camp out have been made for August 22, 23 and 24; O'Leary campground north of Flagstaff. Remember that terrific spot with the huge ramada, fire pit, grills and accommodations for tents and up to 18 vehicles and 75 people? See Ann Harper for further details.

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



Google calendar

This is the application that the on-line calendar at westvalleyuu.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."

Facebook Use Encouraged

If you have not yet joined up with the West Valley Facebook page or group, you are missing out on a little fun, some sharing, and the quickest communication medium around.

Join Facebook, then search for the terms in red below:

Facebook group: West Valley UU Church - open to all - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/wvuuc/>

Facebook Fan Page: West Valley Unitarian Universalist Church
<https://www.facebook.com/WestValleyUnitarianUniversalistChurch>

On the first day, God created the dog and said, "Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. For this, I will give you a life span of twenty years."

The dog said, "That's a long time to be barking. How about only ten years and I'll give you back the other ten?"

And God saw it was good.

On the second day, God created the monkey and said, "Entertain people, do tricks, and make them laugh. For this, I'll give you a twenty-year life span."

The monkey said, "Monkey tricks for twenty years? That's a pretty long time to perform. How about I give you back ten like the dog did?"

And God, again saw it was good.

On the third day, God created the cow and said, "You must go into the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer's family. For this, I will give you a life span of sixty years."

The cow said, "That's kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. How about twenty and I'll give back the other forty?"

And God agreed it was good.

On the fourth day, God created humans and said, "Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. For this, I'll give you twenty years."

But the human said, "Only twenty years? Could you possibly give me my twenty, the forty the cow gave back, the ten the monkey gave back, and the ten the dog gave back; that makes eighty, okay?"

"Okay," said God, "You asked for it."

So that is why for our first twenty years, we eat, sleep, play and enjoy ourselves. For the next forty years, we slave in the sun to support our family. For the next ten years, we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren. And for the last ten years, we sit on the front porch and bark at everyone.

Life has now been explained to you.

There is no need to thank me for this valuable information. I'm doing it as a public service. If you are looking for me I will be on the front porch.

Lisa Cook



Editor's Notes

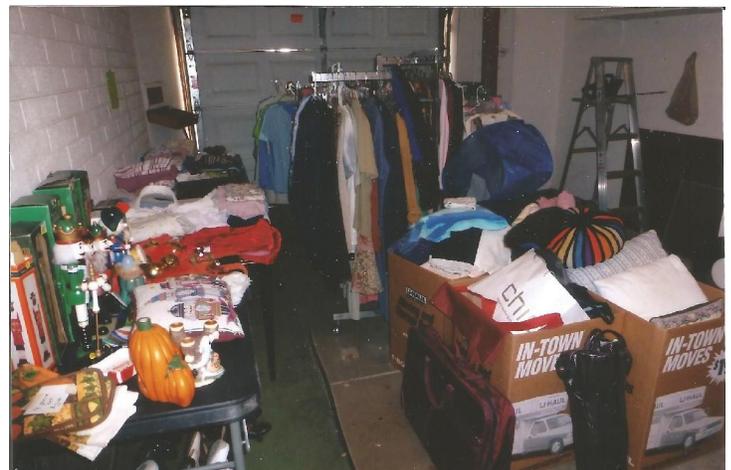
If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, let me know. 602.380.5608; wvuumembers@gmail.com; 19225 N. Cave Creek Rd. #64, Phoenix, AZ 85024.

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

Stories, announcements, photographs, links, and comments are accepted any time. **The deadline for the June newsletter is Sunday, May 25.**

**Getting material in on time
is critical.**

Kovach Estate Garage Sale



May 2014						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 10:30 am, Wor- ship: Ann Harper	28 7:30 pm Men's Al- Anon, RE	29 7:00 pm Zen Meditation-S	30	May 1 <i>May Day</i>	2 9:00 am First Friday Break- fast: Brothers, 8466 W Peoria Ave	3 7:00 am: Ad- venturers' Club Hike
4 10:30 am, Wor- ship: Duane Daniels 12:15 pm Board of Trustees, S	5 7:00 pm Ar- chaeological Society Board, S 7:30 pm Men's Al- Anon, RE	6 8:00 am: Main- tenance Ser- vice Opportu- nity 7:00 pm Zen Meditation-S	7 7:00 pm Sono- ran Audubon Society Board, RE	8 7:00 pm, Wor- ship Services Cmte, O	9	10 8:00 am: Maintenance Service Op- portunity
11 10:30 am, Wor- ship: Emily <u>Whitmore</u> <i>Shared Plate: St Mary's Food Bank Alliance</i> <i>Mother's Day</i>	12 7:00 pm Ar- chaeological Society, S 7:30 pm Men's Al- Anon, RE	13 7:00 pm Zen Meditation, S	14 7:00 pm Sono- ran Audubon Society, S	15	16	17
18 10:30 am, Wor- ship: Barry Lin- den 12:15 pm: Congrega- tional Meet- ing	19 7:30 pm Men's Al- Anon, RE	20 7:00 pm Zen Meditation-S	21	22	23	24
25 10:30 am, Wor- ship: Dee Utley	26 7:30 pm Men's Al- Anon, RE	27 7:00 pm Zen Meditation-S	28	29	30	31

Speakers and Topics

May 4: Duane Daniels, actor, director, coach

"Acting; the Art of Compassion"- Many of us know the expression "Walk a mile in someone else's shoes." Actors do this as a way of life. It is the passion that drives them. And in doing so, they give voice to those who cannot speak for themselves.

May 11: Emily Whitmore, "Let's Declare a Truce in the Mommy Wars"

This Mother's Day, we'll explore the phenomenon and possible causes of "mommy judging" when it comes to different parenting styles, and what we can do to live in peace and harmony with our fellow combatants.

May 18: Barry Linden, "The Living Energy Universe"

I will ask you to wonder. We are all energetic beings - electrical, chemical and other kinds of energy. People have speculated that there is a "subtle energy" for thousands of years, and much of Eastern meditation practice is based on Chi. What if there is a subtle energy? Is there some reason to believe it? Would this account for things we have all experienced? What are the implications if it is true? How might this tie us all together?

May 25: Dee Utley, "Cultivating a Caring Community for People with Disabilities"

Founded by the community, for the community in 1981, Benevilla is a nonprofit human services agency which seeks to weave a safety net for those who may be isolated and need assistance to maintain their independence and to control their destinies.

By cultivating a caring community of neighbors helping neighbors, Benevilla is able to provide extensive support services for older adults with intellectual disabilities, children, and the families who care for them.

Benevilla programs are supported through donations from individuals, congregations, service clubs, and corporations.



May Board Meeting (1st Sunday this month only)

The Board of Trustees will next meet at **12:15 pm, Sunday, May 4**, in the sanctuary. Congregation members are always welcome. **Board members, committee liaisons, chairs, coordinators, or representatives should attend.** Your input into policy decisions and congregational activities is vital.



May

Birthdays

- 2nd - Barry Linden
- 4th - Shannon Bailes
- 11th - Doug Pope
- 21st - Eric Des Champs
- 22nd - Diane Snyder
- 24th - Suzy Howell
- 24th - James Whitmore
- 30th - Elaine King

Anniversaries

- 25th - Bill & Kathy Dugan



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

So, What Are You Reading ?

Valerie Lynch

Mystery series: *Finding Nouf*; *City of Veils* and *Kingdom of Strangers*; Zoe Ferraris

Many people enjoy a good murder mystery now and then. I recently finished reading this wonderful series by Zoe Ferraris. They are not only good mystery stories but also a fascinating look at a foreign location and culture. They all take place in Saudi Arabia. The main character is Katya, a lab worker in a coroner's office, who has a keen sense of knowing when things aren't as they seem. Being a woman, she is not always appreciated. Another wonderful character is Nayir, a sometimes desert guide. Spoiler alert – there will be a bit of romance (Saudi style of course). They work "together" to solve the disappearance and murder of a 16 year girl from a prominent family, the murder of a young woman filmmaker and discover a serial killer who has been on the loose for over ten years. I highly recommend these very "hard to put down" books.

Nick Reachmack

Reign of Error - The Hoax of the Privatization Movement and the Danger to America's Public Schools; Diane Ravitch

This book is real work to read because the author, a research professor at New York University, shows how statistics are misinterpreted to make public schools look like anachronisms. A most striking example is the gap between white, black, and Latino students' scores in "Standardized tests". Gaps have decreased with time, but will always exist because each group is becoming smarter, and the gap rate changes vary due to other causes than schools themselves, such as cultural changes in ethnic groups.



Onna Johnson

Sons of the Wolf; Barbara Michaels

I just finished this quick read set in England. When Ada & Harriet's grandmother and guardian died, she left the family fortune to Ada, the youngest. They would both be sent North to Mr. Wolfson, a male relative who agreed to "take charge" of the young ladies and their fortune. The Washington Post says of Barbara Michaels, "A writer so popular that the public library has to keep [her] books under lock and key."

Donnis Deever

The Big Truck That Went By; Jonathan Katz

While in Haiti, person after person kept saying, "You must read this book!" So I am. It is a first hand account of what happened in Haiti on January 12, 2010, as a horrific earthquake laid waste to Port au Prince and most of Haiti. Jonathan Katz was the only AP journalist operating in Haiti as the earthquake hit. He was ready to leave after residing there two-and-a-half years. He did not leave for another three years. The subtitle of his book is telling: "How the World Came To Save Haiti and Left Behind A Disaster".

This book does not have a happy ending . . . yet.



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



We are a welcoming
congregation

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.

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.

Professional child care is available for chil-
dren age 3 and up.

Children's Religious Education takes place
during the 2nd half of the service.