



# West Valley UU Times



West Valley Unitarian Universalist Church

June 2014

Founded December 1983

## Contact Information

### **Church:**

[info@westvalleyuu.org](mailto: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**

*Valerie Lynch, President*  
[president@westvalleyuu.org](mailto:president@westvalleyuu.org)

*Onna Johnson, President-Elect*  
[onnaj@cox.net](mailto:onnaj@cox.net)

*Roz Cook, Secretary*  
[rozcooksalot@gmail.com](mailto:rozcooksalot@gmail.com)

*Julie Tennant, Treasurer*  
[treasurer@westvalleyuu.org](mailto:treasurer@westvalleyuu.org)

*Judy Armstrong, At-Large*  
[judya@zona.net](mailto:judya@zona.net)

*Diana Barker, At-Large*  
[briza3@yahoo.com](mailto:briza3@yahoo.com)

### **Go-to People:**

Facilities: Noel Johnson

Worship Services: Dorothy Ward

Membership & Caring: Elizabeth Skinner

Stewardship: Valerie Lynch

Religious Education: Donn 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](mailto:wvu5904@gmail.com)

## Gavel Talk

Hi Friends,

It is so good to be back in Arizona, just in time for the warm weather!

I was glad to be back in time for our Spring Congregational Meeting. We had a good report from our treasurer Julie Tennant who is working on getting our records transferred over to a new system at the recommendation of our financial consultant. We are happy to learn that we are in pretty good shape over all and the budget for 2014/2015 was passed. Noel Johnson had a good long range planning report too. We hope to be in our new building by the fall.

We also discussed several recommended by-law changes. The first had to do with Part I, Article V which had to do with the occasional need to have a closed portion of a board meeting (executive session) when discussing a personnel issue. The Board wanted to include private personal issues a volunteer may have. The congregation decided not to make the change at this time but to have the understanding that "personnel" includes paid and unpaid people.

The second change had to do with the same section but Subsection 2. The current bylaws made the "President Elect" automatically become "President" the following year. We have found that sometimes we may find someone who is willing to serve as "Vice-President" but not be able to commit to serving as "President" the following year. The Board asked the congregation to make the change so that it would no longer

be a requirement. The wording may be tweaked a bit going forward but the congregation voted to make the change. The election followed this decision. It allowed Judy Armstrong to be nominated for Vice President and Noel Johnson volunteered to be added to the slate to run for Member at Large.

I'm very pleased to announce our new officers for 2014/2015:

Onna Johnson – President

Judy Armstrong – Vice President

Roz Cook - Secretary

Julie Tennant – Treasurer

Diana Barker – Trustee at Large

Noel Johnson – Trustee at Large

I want to thank Onna Johnson especially for her service as Acting President during my frequent times away, and all the Board members for their dedication and deep caring for this community. The congregation will be in very good hands in the coming church year.

For those leaving for the summer I wish you safe travels. For our year round members and friends, I'll look forward to seeing you more this summer. It has been a joy to serve in leadership of this congregation. I thank you all for your support over the past year.

*Valerie*

## Our RE kids celebrate Buddha's birthday



*Morgan James, Lavender James, Alex Begush.*

Celebrating Buddha's birthday, we fashioned our own statues, ladled water over them and showered them with flowers. In Japan the holiday is known as *Hana Matsuri*, the flower festival. The legend tells us that the Baby Buddha, at birth, stood and walked seven steps, raising one hand to the sky and the other to the earth, declared he would unite heaven and earth. This was a lesson from the *Holidays and Holy Days* curriculum.

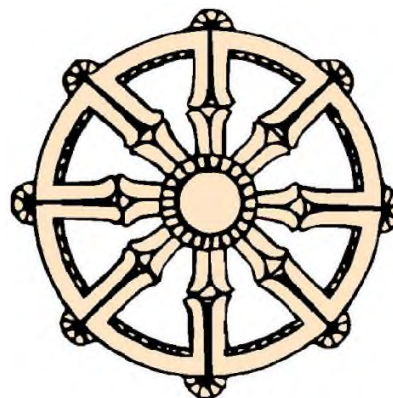
## Sermon Videos

Mitch James and his able assistant have been making video recordings of most sermons, and has uploaded them to YouTube, and to [westvalleyuu.org](http://westvalleyuu.org).



In [westvalleyuu.org](http://westvalleyuu.org), click on "Sermons."

*Thank You, Mitch and Corielle!*



Make contributions to West Valley via PayPal to [wvuumembers@gmail.com](mailto:wvuumembers@gmail.com), or at [westvalleyuu.org](http://westvalleyuu.org).





**CLASSIFIED ADS**

**HELP WANTED**

**FACEBOOK PAGE ADMIN** - Find and post relevant UU and WVUUC materials to the page. Share postings with Facebook Group and others, as appropriate. Ask UUs and friends to Like the page. Requirements: Facebook identity of your own, and 15 minutes a day that you are now spending on your own Facebook presence. Email wvuumembers@gmail.com for more information.

**A TRIO OF TECHIES** to guarantee our sermons get videoed, our sound system can get "trouble-shot" when necessary, the Power Point components are all meshing. If this is your area let us know. There may come a time when we really, really need you. At this point we just want to know who you are. Contact Ann.

**DELIVERY DRIVER** - Someone to deliver the contents of the food collection bin to St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance on an "as needed" basis. Contact Ann.

Help Wanted to revive the "**Keeping of the Album.**" Many have enjoyed paging through West Valley's photo album scrapbook, currently located on the entry table. Sandra Mahoney and a small group kept the album up-to-date for many moons. It's time to revive that activity, beginning perhaps with the donation of a second album. Call or email the church office.

**CARING**

**TRANSPORTATION** Two non-driving senior members, Mary Lou Cornell and Lucy Trissel, need transportation to Sunday services. Mary Lou's major cross streets are W. Olive Ave. between 85th and 87th Aves.; Lucy's are W. Olive Ave. and 107th Ave. - both are Peoria addresses. If you could drive them once a month, on a regular basis, it would be very helpful. Contact our Caring Committee chair, Elizabeth Skinner, 623-418-6431

**Year of Adventure**

As many of you know, I continue to volunteer for Youth for Understanding, an exchange program for high school age students. We are looking for host families for coming school year. This year we even have youngsters from countries such as Indonesia (girl), Pakistan (girl), Ghana (boy), Kyrgyzstan (boy), Senegal (boy) and Kuwait (girl). Nick and I hosted over 15 students over the years and it was one of the most wonderful decisions we ever made. Please contact me if you would like more information.

Valerie Lynch / 623-878-5444  
[vlmail@hotmail.com](mailto:vlmail@hotmail.com)



<http://yfuusa.org>

**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. **No More Deaths / No Mas Muertes** will be the Shared Plate recipient on **June 8.**



## August Family Camp Out



Whether you bring a bed roll and sleep under the stars or roll up in your Class A Winnebago, do plan to join in the fun and relaxation of West Valley's annual Family Campout. We had to forgo this event last year because our favorite spot was already reserved for the whole season. This year, though, we reserved it in January!

You can hike a prescribed hike or just mosey out and about the campsite. You can read or veg, nap or chat – or all of the above. We are trusting that once again, Glenn will show up with his guitar and

banjo, Barry will bring his guitar and flute, Christine will bring her guitar and Gudrun will have her harmonica handy. Anyone else? I have a four-octave keyboard that anyone is welcome to play.

Our weekend is that of Friday, August 22, 1 p.m. through Sunday, August 24, 11 a.m. This is the weekend prior to Labor Day. There is space at this group site for 18 – 20 individual sites. Many bring tents; I sleep on a camp cot in my mini-van.

We have our own enormous ramada with six or eight picnic tables and a convenience electrical outlet – which has been used in the past to project a DVD film for the kids onto the “screen” provided (this year's film will probably be Disney's “Jungle Book”). There are grills for our use and a fire pit – although use of these accommodations will depend on forestry regulations. There is fresh running, drinking water and the loos are vault toilets.

The cost per individual unit will depend upon the number of attendees. The more families/households that join in, the less it costs each unit. There is no reason to think any unit will pay more than \$20 for the two nights. Be sure to contact our Office Administrator, Ann Harper, to reserve your spot.

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.”







**Share the Experience Photo Contest is Back!**

The [2014 Share the Experience Photo Contest](#) is now accepting entries through December 31. If you're an amateur photographer, this is your chance to submit inspiring images of America's federal lands, national parks, forests, waterways and historical sites. The 2014 contest features many prizes and a brand new submission category – Night Skies.

Share the Experience showcases amazing photography that highlights the endless recreation opportunities and breathtaking scenery offered by our federal lands. In 2013 about 18,000 images were submitted. See our complete list of [2013 winners and honorable mentions](#).

*Will you be our next winner?* The 2014 Grand Prize package includes \$10,000, the winning image featured on the 2016 America the Beautiful - The National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass and other great prizes. For a full listing of prizes and rules, or to submit a photo, please visit [www.sharetheexperience.org](http://www.sharetheexperience.org).

2014 submission categories include:

- Adventure & Outdoor Recreation
- Historical & Cultural
- Let's Move Outside!
- Night Skies – **NEW!**
- Scenic, Seasons & Landscapes
- Wildlife

Participating Federal Agencies include: [National Park Service](#), [U.S. Bureau of Land Management](#), [U.S. Bureau of Reclamation](#), [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#) and [U.S. Forest Service](#).

Make sure you, your family and friends visit [www.sharetheexperience.org](http://www.sharetheexperience.org) to view amazing photos and weekly winners, vote for favorites and submit your entries.



**Editor's Notes**

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, let me know. 602.923.1269; [wvuumembers@gmail.com](mailto: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 July newsletter is Wednesday, June 25.**

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

**Link on Facebook**

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>

## June 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 10:30 am, Wor- ship: Valerie Lynch	<b>2</b> 7:00 pm Ar- chaeological Society Board, S  7:30 pm Men's Al- Anon, RE	<b>3</b> 7:00 pm Zen Meditation-S	<b>4</b> 7:00 pm Sono- ran Audubon Society Board, RE	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 9:00 am First Friday Break- fast: Brothers, 8466 W Peoria Ave	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 10:30 am, Wor- ship: Maryke Des Champs <b>Shared Plate: No More Deaths/No Mas Muertes .</b>  12:15 pm Board of Trustees, S	<b>9</b> 7:00 pm Ar- chaeological Society, S  7:30 pm Men's Al- Anon, RE	<b>10</b> 7:00 am: Main- tenance Ser- vice Opportu- nity  7:00 pm Zen Meditation-S	<b>11</b> 7:00 pm Sono- ran Audubon Society, S	<b>12</b> 7:00 pm: Wor- ship Services Committee, S	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 7:00 am: Maintenance Service Op- portunity  <b>FLAG DAY</b>
<b>15</b> 10:30 am, Wor- ship: Terry Mead  <b>FATHERS' DAY</b>	<b>16</b> 7:30 pm Men's Al- Anon, RE	<b>17</b> 7:00 pm Zen Meditation, S	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  <b>SUMMER SOLSTICE</b>
<b>22</b> 10:30 am, Wor- ship: Flower Communion; Summer Solstice	<b>23</b> 7:30 pm Men's Al- Anon, RE	<b>24</b> 7:00 pm Zen Meditation-S	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 10:30 am, Wor- ship: Judy Arm- strong	<b>30</b> 7:30 pm Men's Al- Anon, RE	<b>July 1</b> 7:00 pm Zen Meditation-S	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4 - INDEPEND- ENCE DAY</b>  	<b>5</b>

# Speakers and Topics

**June 1: Valerie Lynch, “Reflections on the Life of Pete Seeger”**

Pete Seeger, a UU, led a remarkable life both in music and world affairs. We will reflect on his courage, talents and deep caring for people and the environment.

**June 8: Maryke Des Champs, “Getting Acquainted with Spinoza”**

Bertrand Russell called him our "most lovable philosopher." Baruch Spinoza, born in Amsterdam in 1632, excommunicated from the Jewish community and never accepted by Christianity, could well be considered one of the early UU prophets. You are invited to get acquainted with him and learn how many of his views are still valid in our world today.

**June 15: Terry Mead, “Being There, Part 2”**

What is the most important action we can take as “fathers”?

**June 22: Flower Communion**

**June 29: Judy Armstrong, “Prophetic Men and Women of our Time”**



## June Board Meeting

The Board of Trustees will next meet at **12:15 pm, Sunday, June 8**, 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.



### June Birthdays

Terry Mead - 5th  
Dorothy Ward - 25th

### *Anniversaries*

none noted



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

## How Did You Get Your Water Today?

How did you get your water today? I mean, seriously, what did it take to get a glass of water? When you got the water how long did it take you to clean the water until you could drink it? Did you boil it? Filter it? Add tablets to purify it? After you drank it were you healthier...or did the water make you sick? Really sick?

My bet is that you never gave a thought to any of this as you turned on your water faucet and quickly drank a glass of pure, safe water. That is not what would happen to you in Haiti (and much of the rest of the world).

Haiti is a nation occupying one third of the Caribbean island of Hispaniola. The Dominican Republic occupies the rest. The nation has seen way more than its share of trauma over the decades. (see **WIKIPEDIA** or read Paul Farmer's "**Haiti: After the Earthquake**") Already a political and economic mess, Haiti was struck by a devastating earthquake in January 2010. As many of you know, millions of dollars were pledged by people in the United States, as well as by our government and the governments of other countries, to try to repair the damage. (Read: "**The Big Truck That Went By: How The World Came to Save Haiti and Left a Disaster**". by Jonathan Katz)

Haiti is not repaired.

So, without water lines through a major city and with rivers polluted by farms and factories, and tragically by UN troops after the earthquake, resulting in a cholera epidemic, I reword my questions. Where do Haitians get their water? What does it take to get a drink of clean water? That is what I went to Haiti to find out.

I went with an amazing group of people **Pure Water for the World**. I wanted to see and experience what it takes to **bring water as medicine** to people. **Pure Water for the World (PWW)** began with the concern of a man from a Vermont Rotarian group who saw the need for decent water around the world. In 1999 **PWW** became a 501(c)(3) organization. The people involved are very careful to manage their resources by only serving two countries at present, Honduras and Haiti. They make it very

clear to groups with them that they only do one thing: they build, transport and install simple water filtration systems (bio-sand filters) in the homes and schools of carefully vetted villages. They train the villagers in the use and maintenance of each filter, they establish village "caretakers" to oversee the filters in the village, they train and monitor the caretakers and they stay in contact to support the families and villages where they have installed these life saving devices. In Honduras they also build latrines.

This is no easy task. To drive to a village 30 miles from Port au Prince may take 2½ hours. There are increasingly more guns and bandits in Haiti. **PWW** vans



*Haitian girl at school served by PWW*

have been stopped and robbed on several occasions, roads are, to put it mildly, lacking in infrastructure. There is precious little medical care once you are outside of a city. The language, Kreyòl, is difficult so translators and drivers are necessities. French is taught in the myriad of elementary "schools"...but



*A training for villagers who have, or want to have, a water filter*

*(Continued on page 9)*



*(Continued from page 8)*

that is another story for another day.

But here is what I saw:

I saw filthy rivers, dirty wells, and enormous trucks in the city carrying unfiltered water. (How do you get your water?)

I saw girls as young as ten who walked in the heat on rough gravel for 1-2 miles (sometimes down a mountain road) to a water source. They filled a five gallon pails (about 50 lbs), placed them on their heads, and walked back to their village. This would be all the water the family would have for that day. (How do you get your water?)

Without PWW a family might have to boil the water (this takes fuel). Or they might have to put purification tablets in (this takes money).

Since **PWW's** arrival, they simply pour the water gently into the top of the **PWW** bio-sand filter and when the water has passed through the system it is drinkable, even for babies. (What does it take to make the water safe to drink?)

What is the reaction of the people? They are amazed. They tell us about how their children are healthier. They tell us how skeptical villagers now want their own filters. They tell us that neighbors "drop by" so they can drink from the filter. Suddenly a village that was thought to have 50 families now claims 100 families, some of whom live VERY far away).

There is of course much more to the story. Obviously this simple (?) decision by **PWW** to change the lives of individual families will not save Haiti – but it will save the health of each family where **Pure Water for the World** has intervened. But effective, well-constructed solutions cost money . Randy Thompson, board member of **PWW** and trip leader, estimates that the construction, transportation, in country office, selection of villages, drivers, translators, training, maintenance and long term support of each village costs \$300 per filter system. This is why they are so careful to avoid being sidetracked by other needs in Haiti.



*A "well" where villagers get water for their families*



*Filtration systems for individual families*

They know what they can do with the resources they have and they do it well.

If "water as medicine" is important to you, go to [www.purewaterfortheworld.org](http://www.purewaterfortheworld.org) and become part of the solution.

*Donnis Deever*

## So, What Are You Reading ?

### Judy Armstrong

Just finished *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche.

This is a novel by a Nigerian author that follows a decade or two in the life of a young Nigerian woman who attends university in New England and blogs about race in America. So as the reader, you are simultaneously following the events of her life, and the insights and observations about what it is to be a minority in this country that she posts in her blog.

### Vasantha Karan

*The Emperor of All Maladies* by Siddhartha Mukherjee

I started reading this book after I saw an interview with the author. The book is a Pulitzer Prize winning "Biography of Cancer" (its sub-title), that helps demystify the disease.

AND

*Reconciliation: Healing the Inner Child* by Thich Nhat Hanh

This is a self-improvement book. For me, it is helping in my spiritual journey. It is a great reference book for practicing Mindfulness. It has several healing exercises for various aspects of life including acknowledging and healing the "child" in everyone of us.



*"If God wanted us to vote, he would have given us candidates."* ~ Jay Leno

*"The problem with political jokes is they get elected."* ~ Henry Cate, VII

*"We hang the petty thieves and appoint the great ones to public office."* ~ Aesop

*"If we got one-tenth of what was promised to us in these State of the Union speeches, there wouldn't be any inducement to go to heaven."* ~ Will Rogers

*With Thanks to Beverly Hart*

*"In questions of law or of fact conscience is very often confounded with opinion. No man's conscience can tell him the rights of another man; they must be known by rational investigation or historical inquiry."* ~ Dr. Samuel Johnson

*"One has not only a legal but a moral responsibility to obey just laws, but conversely, one has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws."* ~ Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

*"I am free, no matter what rules surround me. If I find them tolerable, I tolerate them; if I find them too obnoxious, I break them. I am free because I know that I alone am morally responsible for everything I do."* ~ Robert A. Heinlein

The Europeans are all deeply tainted with prejudices, both ecclesiastical and temporal, which they can never get rid of. They are all infected with episcopal and presbyterian creeds, and confessions of faith. They all believe that great Principle which has produced this boundless universe, Newton's universe and Herschell's universe, came down to this little ball, to be spit upon by Jews. And until this awful blasphemy is got rid of, there never will be any liberal science in the world. ~ John Adams

*"I do not believe in the creed professed by the Jewish Church, by the Roman Church, by the Greek Church, by the Turkish Church, by the Protestant Church, nor by any Church that I know of. My own mind is my own Church."* ~ Thomas Paine

*With Thanks to Diane Snyder*



## 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.