



West Valley UU Times



West Valley Unitarian Universalist Church

July 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

Onna Johnson, President
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Judy Armstrong, Vice President
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Noel Johnson, At-Large
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Go-to People:

Facilities: Noel Johnson

Social Action: Valerie Lynch

Worship Services: Dorothy Ward

Membership: Elizabeth Skinner

Caring: Elizabeth Skinner

Stewardship: []

Religious Education: Donnis

Deever, adults; Shannon Bailes, children

Circle Suppers: Corielle James

Hospitality: Kimberly Escalante

Office Administrator: Ann Harper

wvu5904@gmail.com

June Was a Banner Month NEW MEMBERS

Carla Dunlap

Graham Smith

Kaylen Miller

Kimberly Escalante

Shannon Bailes

Laurie Allen

Mindy Luce

Alex Luce

Gavel Talk

Hello Members & Friends,

A couple months ago I was in Montana and Wyoming for the birth of twin granddaughters, and I was privileged to attend the UU Fellowship in Sheridan, Wyoming, and the UU Fellowship in Bozeman, Montana. I returned to WVUU full of hope, and very thankful to be a part of such an inviting and inspiring community.

By the time this newsletter is published, I will officially be President of the Board of Trustees for West Valley Unitarian Universalist

Church. I do take this job seriously and will do my best to fulfill my obligations as president. We all know that I can't do it alone, so be prepared for me to delegate, delegate, delegate, and I'm asking you to be willing to accept as many responsibilities as you are able.

This is the way we are going to maintain a positive spiritual home and this is the way we will grow and flourish.

Respectfully, Onna Johnson

LRP REPORT

Keep your fingers crossed, folks, we just may be breaking ground for our Sanctuary before September. I'm talking about September 2014, not 2015.

LRP Chair, Noel Johnson

July 6 Pot-luck

Independence Day BBQ Pot-luck. Hot dogs and Hamburgers with buns will be provided. Bring something to share if you can.

Kimberly and Diana

What a Day! Flower Communion Sunday, New Member Ceremony, Child Dedication

A New Member ceremony for Carla Dunlap, Kim Escalante, Kaylen Miller, and Graham Smith was celebrated the prior Sunday, June 15. Welcome, all - to our West Valley UU Church community.



Shannon Bailes, long time friend and child care person, becomes a member.



Lavender and Morgan James, with mom, Corielle, standing by, sing "Each of Us Is A Flower."



Mindy and Alex Luce recite the Parents' Response, during the child dedication, as Max and Sam listen.

Mindy, Sam, Alex and Max - the Luce family; new member Laurie Allen, Shannon Bailes and Membership Chair, Elizabeth Skinner.



Special Thanks

. . . to **Joel Foster** for his generous donation of two microscopes and a telescope, to our R.E. group. Is there someone planning to attend the family camp-out who could lead an evening under the stars?

. . . to **Shannon Bailes** for stepping up to the all-important position of Children's R.E. Coordinator. She has a wonderful, creative program of craft activities scheduled for our children this summer.

SHANNON IS RECRUITING TEACHERS FOR THE FALL SCHEDULE. Our R.E. volunteers teach on a rotating schedule (one Sunday each month), which leaves them free to attend services on the other Sundays. **Let Shannon know which Sunday of the month you can commit to teaching.**

. . . to **Carla Dunlap**, who keeps her own, very early morning watering schedule at West Valley – before the sun begins to scorch the premises.

THE SECOND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH (7 a.m. in the summer) is designated as “Campus Cleanup Day.” See Glenn Snyder to see how you can be of help.

. . . to **Kimberly Escalante** for stepping into the Hospitality Chairperson position.

. . . to **Onna Johnson** and **Judy Armstrong** for hours spent putting the kitchen in order.

. . . to **Mary Lynne Shroyer**, who has volunteered to deliver our food bin collections to St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance, once she is back in town in the fall.

Meanwhile, who can cover this task on an “as needed” basis until Mary Lynne returns? Contact Ann Harper, Office Administrator



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

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.

In westvalleyuu.org, click on “Sermons.”

Thank You, Mitch and Corielle!



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. **Chrysalis Shelter** will be the Shared Plate recipient on **July 13**.



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 take 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, Chris-

tine 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 convenient 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. **A \$10 deposit per unit is required to reserve your spot.** Ann Harper, our Office Administrator, is accepting deposits. If you will be paying by check, please make it payable to Ann.

Ann Harper

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.”



Arizona Education

More and more people are demanding that Arizona's top school official step down after he admitted to publishing a string of anonymous blog posts calling for a statewide ban on the Spanish language.

The superintendent of public instruction, Republican John Huppenthal, used an online alias to rant against Spanish speakers on a conservative-leaning website shortly after he was elected to office in 2010. "We all need to stomp out balkanization. No Spanish radio stations, no Spanish billboards, no Spanish TV stations, no Spanish newspapers," wrote Huppenthal, adding, "This is America, speak English."

"I don't mind them selling Mexican food as long as the menus are mostly in English. And, I'm not being humorous or racist," he said.

Additional posts recently surfaced in which Huppenthal anonymously referred to welfare recipients as "lazy pigs" and claimed F.D.R.'s economic policies helped Hitler rise to power. He confirmed he was the author of the posts in an interview with the [Arizona Republic](#) last week.

Former Arizona superintendent Lisa Graham Keegan has joined in the chorus calling for Huppenthal's resignation. "You can't hold the position of superintendent of schools and be saying things that sound disdainful of the people that you serve, you can't do that," she said.

This is not the first time Huppenthal has rejected accusations of discrimination. In 2010, the government nearly brought a civil-rights lawsuit against Arizona after the state fired teachers for having accents. While the state agreed to go back to following federal guidelines for testing English fluency, Huppenthal vowed to continue instructing classroom monitors to report teachers with accents.

<http://thinkprogress.org/immigration/2014/06/25/3452533/arizona-ban-spanish/>

Editor's Notes

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, let the Administrator know. 623.846.6004; wvuumembers@ gmail.com; 5904 W. Cholla St., Glendale AZ 85304-3205

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 August newsletter is Friday, July 25.**

Getting material in on time is critical.

This is my 63rd and final issue. Contrary to rumor, I am not quitting because I'm angry with someone or about something. I just have a personal need to be less involved. Thanks for your patience and assistance, with special thanks to Ann Harper and Emily Whitmore..

Wayne Daniel

Your New Editor
Emily Whitmore
[Thank You]



July 2014						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 10:30 am, Wor- ship: Judy Arm- strong	30 7:30 pm Men's Al- Anon, RE	July 1 7:00 pm Zen Meditation-S	2	3 7:00 pm: Wor- ship Services Committee, S	4 <i>INDEPEND- ENCE DAY</i> 9:00 am First Friday Break- fast: Brothers, 8466 W Peoria Ave	5
6 10:30 am, Wor- ship: Jo Cleland <i>Independ- ence Day Pot-luck</i>	7 7:30 pm Men's Al- Anon, RE	8 7:00 pm Zen Meditation-S	9	10	11 7:30 pm Men's Al-Anon, RE	12 7:00 am: Cam- pus Clean-up
13 10:30 am, Wor- ship: Dr. Kathryn Sheffield <i>Shared Plate: Chrysalis Shelter</i>	14 7:30 pm Men's Al- Anon, RE	15 7:00 pm Zen Meditation, S	16	17	18	19
20 10:30 am, Wor- ship: Martin Mo- reno 12:15 pm Board of Trustees, S	21 7:30 pm Men's Al- Anon, RE	22 7:00 pm Zen Meditation-S	23	24	25	26
27 10:30 am, Wor- ship: Terry Mead	28 7:30 pm Men's Al- Anon, RE	29 7:00 pm Zen Meditation-S	30	31	August 1	2

Speakers and Topics

July 6: Jo Cleland, “The Gifts of Music”

Jo will talk about the many benefits music brings into our lives

July 13: Dr. Kathryn Sheffield, “Writing and Being”

Religion and the arts seem to spring from the same spiritual center that all humanity shares. Of all art forms literature and religion share a special bond. However, at its heart, literature entails the simple act of writing, something that, unlike painting or performing music, any literate person can do. Having used writing as a spiritual practice throughout my life, I would like to share some spiritual writing practices, and the gifts they offer. The title of this presentation is taken from a book and course created by Dr. Lynn Nelson, whose spiritual and literary gifts have enriched my life, and the lives of many others, profoundly.

July 20: Martin Moreno,

July 27: Terry Mead, Poetry Sunday



July Board Meeting

Date Change - No August Meeting

The Board of Trustees will next meet at **12:15 pm, Sunday, July 20**, 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.



July

Birthdays

6th - Kathy Dugan
 6th - Betsy Timmerman
 11th - Darnell Kirksey
 25th - Louise Slotta

Anniversaries

28th - Joel & Fannie Foster



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

So, What Are You Reading ?



Ayaan Hirsi Ali was named one of Time magazine's 100 most influential People of 2005, one of the Glamour Heroes of 2005, and Reader's Digest's European of the Year. She has also received numerous human rights awards.

Diane Snyder: *Once We Were Brothers*, by Ronald H. Balson, is a novel that opens in modern Chicago, where a man is accusing one of the city's most prominent citizens of having been a Nazi [SS officer]. It continues with flashbacks to Poland during WWII. For me, as a UU, it was especially important in that it reminds us of what happens when one is too obedient and strives for perfection, qualities that are otherwise admired.

Ann Harper: *Becoming Animal*, by David Abram. The basis for a recent sermon, this book sits on my desk, looking somewhat like a colorful porcupine, with thirty or more post-it tabs marking "talking point" pages. I'm in love with this author – ecologist, anthropologist, philosopher, soul of a poet, word-meister . . . the book reintroduces us to our animal selves and offers a fresh appreciation of our place in the interdependent web.

Dorothy Ward: *Infidel*, by Ayaan Hirsi Ali, is an engrossing, nonfiction book about Ayaan's experience of Muslim life in four African countries and Holland.

Raised in a strict Muslim family and extended clan, Hirsi Ali survived civil war, female mutilation, brutal beatings, adolescence as a devout believer during the rise of the Muslim Brotherhood, and life in four troubled, unstable countries largely ruled by despots.

Maya Angelou said this:

"I've learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow."

"I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights."

"I've learned that regardless of your relationship with your parents, you'll miss them when they're gone from your life."

"I've learned that making a 'living' is not the same thing as 'making a life..'"

"I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance."

"I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw some things back..."

"I've learned that whenever I decide something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision."

"I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one."

"I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone. People love a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back..."

"I've learned that I still have a lot to learn..."

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."



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.