

# Unitarian Universalist Church Newsletter

17540 N. Avenue of the Arts, Surprise, AZ 85378-2581

Phone: 623.875.2550 // [www.uusurprise.org](http://www.uusurprise.org) // Email: [uucsaz@aol.com](mailto:uucsaz@aol.com)

The Newsletter of Unitarian Universalist Church, Surprise, AZ is published monthly except August.

**Minister:** Rev. Terry Sims

**Minister Emeritus:** Rev. Dr. Walt F. Wieder

**President:** Pat Lindgren



**Newsletter Editor:** Charlie Mannino

[newsletter@uusurprise.org](mailto:newsletter@uusurprise.org)

**Printing:** Kathryn Pabich

April 2017

## From The Minister's Desk

I want to share with you part of a remarkably insightful interview I heard on March 14, 2017. ["A popular Arab satirist takes on the rise of nationalism, PRI's The World, March 14, 2017, <https://www.pri.org/stories/2017-03-14/popular-arab-satirist-takes-rise-nationalism>.] Marco Worman, host of "The World" radio show, was interviewing Karl Sharro, a London-based Lebanese satirist. Sharro writes under the pseudonym "Karl reMarks."



"A lot of people scoffed at Samuel Huntington in 1992 when he argued that the world faced a "clash of civilizations." In a lecture, the political scientist put forward a hypothesis that cultural and religious identity would be the primary source of conflict in a world just emerging from the ideological struggles of the Cold War.

"Identity politics" are now all the rage, with advocates in the White House and the Kremlin seeming to believe that Western civilization is on a collision course with Islam and possibly China. Hindu nationalists are on the rise in India. Many Chinese are also happy that their nation is feeling its oats."

Sharro said "it's almost like a self-fulfilling prophecy, in that the world has increasingly adopt[ed] this particularist prism of seeing the world, seeing it through their own immediate cultural experience and defining themselves through what we broadly call now 'identity politics' . . . . In Europe, politicians across the continent are profiting

from fear of the "other." The most common targets are Muslims."

"Sharro . . . attributes the phenomenon in part to the decline of "big ideas" like liberalism and socialism, allowing many people to see the world through what he calls "narrow, cultural prisms." "To be fair," he adds, "it's happening all around the world, but it probably has a bigger impact in the West because of its immediate political manifestations and what used to be thought of as the advanced position of the West. It's quite a tragic setback."

"[W]hen you see culture as destiny," Sharro says, "this is quite a dangerous thing, because there is no choice. If your identity is what you're born into, if your identity is all about your cultural identity, this is a form of biological and cultural determinism."

"That means you can't change as a person," he adds. "You can't have different points of view. These are fundamental to the ideas of unshackling ourselves from the limitations of our immediate surroundings and from the . . . weight of the past . . . [T]o . . . transform ourselves, and to create, especially today with the movement of people all around the world, much more diverse and inclusive societies that can accept everyone and still retain the ability to function and not be divisive."

Our Sixth UU Principle affirms and promotes "the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all." The ethno-nationalism and identification with other narrow characteristics we see spreading across the world would undo the progress the world has made toward understanding the reality that we are a global community, even when we do not act like it. We have no choice but to share each other's waters, air, ice caps, forests, and

soil – and each other’s destruction and pollution of them, too. Migration across physical borders and across national, ethnic, racial, and religious identifiers is a fact. Trade is global and economies are enmeshed. Science, history, and the arts belong to all of us, as do wars, starvation, and disease. Humanity will not progress, and may not survive, by retreating to the past in fear behind isolationist policies and border walls.

We have a responsibility to ourselves and this world to resist the trend of ethno-nationalism, identity politics, and the death of big ideas. We are citizens of the world, as are the rest of our fellow human beings who happened to be born in, or migrated into, a nation, culture, ethnicity, or religion different from ours. It is not for us to follow where little minds and small hearts would lead us. No, it falls to us to raise up again and again the goal of world community, that it may lead us all forward together. I’ll see you in church.

Yours in our UU faith,



## President's Letter to Congregation

*Pat Lindgren, President*



When I began writing this on Sunday, March 12th, I taught the 1st – 4th grade RE class. Our lesson was about the fourth UU principle “A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.” It started me remembering how I got to be a Unitarian Universalist. During the more than four decades that I lived in Southern

California, I refined what it was that I did not believe and ultimately what I did believe. Here are some of the results of that thinking.

I lived through the civil rights movement of the 60s and I did and do believe that, as Dr. King said, people should be judged by the content of their character and not the color of their skin.

I lived through the women’s movement of the 70s and I did and do believe that while there are physical differences between men and women, that both deserve equal rights to education, employment and control of their own bodies and destinies.

From 1950 through today I lived through the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the war in Grenada, Operation Desert Storm, the war in Afghanistan, the war in Iraq and countless other American military actions. I did and do believe that war does not solve problems and that most American wars are fought for the benefit of the military-industrial complex.

I lived through the start of the environmental movement in the 1980s and 90s and continuing to today. I did and do believe that we must care for the earth and its resources and preserve it for our future generations.

I lived through the gay rights movement of the 90’s and 2000’s and still ongoing. I saw DOMA overturned and the Supreme Court allow same sex marriage in all 50 states. I did and do believe that sexual orientation is not a choice and marriage is not the same as holy matrimony. If a church wants to discriminate against LGBTs they do not have the right to impose their opinions on society.

I missed voting for John F Kennedy because I was only 19 and the voting age then was 21, but I have voted in every election I was eligible for since then. I did and do believe in democracy and in the privilege and responsibility of citizens of a democracy to vote.

I read books, newspapers, magazines of all kinds. I did and do believe in a free press and in the search for truth.

These are the things my life experiences taught me. When I came to this church for the first time in 2007, I found everything I believed embodied in the seven Unitarian Universalist principles. I was astonished to find a faith that so closely matched what I found in my free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

## ***Transportation for Seniors and Others Without Cars***

Have you given up your car? Or are you worried about how to get around the area if you do? On Thursday, April 13th at 10:00 a.m., Kathryn Chandler, Executive Director of Northwest Valley Connect and an inspiring speaker, will speak to us about this non-profit organization whose mission is to provide personalized support to connect seniors and people with disabilities with available transportation services. Come to learn how to find a ride and how you can volunteer to help.

**UUC Surprise Family Service Project  
 “Welcome to Arizona” Refugee Baskets  
 Saturday, April 8th 2017**

Under the direction of Teraysa Hightower, we will partner with an organization called Refugee Focus to collect, assemble and deliver welcome baskets filled with calendars, bus passes, toiletries, etc. to a list of identified, new and existing refugee families. We are hoping for a large turnout as this project will be open to RE families as well as the entire congregation. Children will work side by side with parents to help with the project, decorate baskets and make welcome cards.

(Items will be placed in a laundry basket for each family)

**Must Haves (items must be NEW)**

Shampoo	Hairbrush
Toothpaste	Deodorant
Toothbrushes	Kleenex
Bar Soap	Sewing Kit
Toilet Paper	Laundry Soap
Dish Soap	Sponges
Dish Towels	
409 or other all-purpose cleaner	
Notebooks and Pencils/Pens	
Oxford English Picture Dictionary	

**Nice Extras**

Soccer ball, doll, puppet or other simple toy
Other (children’s) school supplies
Bath Towels
Bus Pass
Quarters (to do laundry in apartment complex)
Calendar
Gift Card
Watering Can
Saran Wrap Foil

Please contact Lisa Lawrence at [lisal@uusurprise.org](mailto:lisal@uusurprise.org) with any questions. Happy collecting!  
*This event is sponsored by the Children’s RE Department*

**Good News Congregational  
 Discussion, with Pizza**

*Bonnie Saunders, Discussion Facilitator*

Recently, people have asked what is happening among our members and friends regarding Social Justice Issues in Surprise. Actually, quite a lot. Between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 9th, the congregation will have an opportunity to share what is happening.

First, Rick Wambaugh will share with us the good news about the Surprise Elementary School project - what his volunteers are accomplishing and their attitude toward these accomplishments. Then, Teraysa Hightower will talk about the refugee project, especially the results of the Baskets-for-Refugee-Families event that will have taken place on the 8th. After that, we hope that members, who wish to do so, will share with us what they have been doing to further social justice in AZ. If we have time, we will have some additional questions for discussion.

Come, enjoy pizza, learn about our Social Justice activities.

**The Fable Of The Dollar Bill**

Here is just a little note to explain the “story” told by Lee Ormsbee and Jan Lundstrom. The “fable” was brought to us by the late Phyllis Burnett. She obtained it at a past GA and modified it to suit our needs.

All of us are familiar with the Great Depression, if not in person, in family lore. We also remember the standard plea of that tragic era, “Buddy can you spare a dime?”

Inflation has colored our plea for your “spare” dollars. If you are willing and able, please drop a dollar bill in the collection basket to support the many programs of this church. This plea is above and beyond the amount of your stewardship pledge. As a courtesy to our money counters, please unfold or “uncrunch” your donated dollar.

Thank you for supporting the work of our church!



## The Monthly Book Report

MaryAnne Balzer

Library springtime, maybe a change of pace in your reading topics, maybe time to select a new author to enjoy—we can help you connect with something new for your reading pleasure.

It's also the season of rapidly rising temperatures here in Arizona and the great outward migration of those of us looking for cooler summer climates. That includes this Librarian. I will be leaving at the end of March, returning in mid-September. During my absence, the Library will be self-serve with easy instructions for locating books and the book check-out procedure posted. Please feel free to continue to use this great UU reading resource. If you need specialized assistance or have questions, call or text me at: 303-589-5729, or email me: [balzerfreespirit@gmail.com](mailto:balzerfreespirit@gmail.com). I will be glad to help, with access to our card catalogue traveling with me.

Now let's complete our look at the final new books recently added to the Library collection:

**“Turning Point-Essays on a New Unitarian Universalism,”** edited by Fredric Muir, number 289.1MUR. This book is very well reviewed as a forefront book about modern UU. It is our latest book in the number 289 section dealing with many aspects of UU. In Spirit Books says: “Outlining a bold vision for the future of UU, 20 leaders issue a clarion call for change. In inspiring, fresh essays, they implore us to collectively liberate ourselves from patterns that prevent us from becoming a robust faith for a new age.”

**“The Odd Clauses: Understanding the Constitution Through Ten of its Most Curious Provisions,”** by Jay Wexler, number 342.73WEX. This book holds 4 of 5 stars on Amazon.com. It is a terrific current read for those exploring what our laws mean. “An innovative, insightful, often humorous look at the Constitution's lesser-known clauses, offering a fresh perspective on the document's relevance today,” Amazon says.

**“Just Mercy: A Story of Justice & Redemption,”** by Bryan Stevenson, number 353.40STE. “The message of this book, hammered home by dramatic examples of one man's refusal to sit quietly and countenance horror, is that evil can be overcome, a difference can be made....It will make you upset and it will make you hopeful,” an excerpt from the powerful Sunday

Book Review, The New York Times. This book is a hard look at the injustices in our criminal justice system. Well worth reading.

*Be sure to follow this column over the next months.*

*Have a blessed day shared with a good book!*

## Surprise Elementary Volunteers

Julie Wambach

Surprise Elementary School, our congregation's adopted school, is looking for volunteers. An application and fingerprint security check are required. Once cleared, volunteers can decide how they want to contribute and how often they will be available. Start now so you will be ready for Fall, 2017. See information contact Julie Wambach [azwambach@icloud.com](mailto:azwambach@icloud.com).

## Tree Donated

Have you seen the little tree just planted in the courtyard in Virginia Taylor's honor? Virginia's close neighbors raised \$150.00 for us to plant a tree or shrub in her honor on our church property. We purchased a wispy desert tree - a Palo Blanco. It's small and wispy because there is already another tree in the vicinity that will grow larger. Ken Saunders supplied an identifying plaque for it that named Virginia and identified the donors as her Parada Drive neighbors. At the memorial service, Virginia's neighbor, Audi Miller, gave us another \$20.00 donation toward the tree even though it was more than was needed. With it, we purchased a Coral Fountains shrub to match the one on the other side of the tree. Go look at the tree and think of Virginia.

## NOW Meeting

Betty Roberts, Publicity Chair

The National Organization for Women (NOW) SC/WV Chapter will meet Wednesday, April 5, 1 pm at the UU church. The speaker will be Letha Martin from Eve's Place. She will share information on providing innovative empowerment for victims of domestic violence and teen dating abuse. For more information, call 623-972-6273 or visit our website: [aznow-scvw.org](http://aznow-scvw.org).



# Puttin' on the Ritz

*Jeff and Priscilla London, Auction Chairs*

Wow! We "Put on the Ritz" in fine style! Not only did we have a great time, but we raised \$11, 250 from the auction.

The ritzy evening started with our strolling minstrel, Ernest Kassian, setting the mood for the tuxedo clad guys and finely dressed gals. Servers also moved among the 120 plus attendees offering delicious appetizers and fine wines. Meanwhile, members vied for treasures during the silent auction. As they were looking over the auction items, bidders found that the dessert table and beverage bar were also favorite stopping points. Meanwhile, the children were outside delighting in the Bounce House.

When Steve Calkins and Patricia Balfour began the live auction, families, large and small, battled to win the bid on everything from exotic getaways, to tea parties, dinners, and desert tours.

After the bidding dust settled, Dan Reed and his "Ritz Quackers" serenaded us as we enjoyed a wonderful uptown dining experience. Capping the evening was a frenzied Dessert Dash, where everyone had a chance to enjoy one of the many outstanding creations.

This fun and very productive event was made possible by a host of over fifty volunteers who found the time to make a difference for the congregation.

We are grateful for your enthusiastic support in helping to create a most memorable auction. Thank you.



## RE Report

Lisa Lawrence, DRE

Jedi Academy is going well. Our young Padawans are now embarking on their final training category before their Trials of Knighthood in May. In "Training of Spirit" students explore the meaning of each of our UU seven principles. They learn that the UU Principles are not just a code of beliefs, but a code of actions. We are what we do.



Each principle has also been associated with a color. The cross-cultural significance of these colors is being explored because children will soon be choosing what color to make their own personal light sabers. The making of the light saber is one of the final parts of their Jedi training. In the world of

the Jedi, the most unique and individual tool that a Jedi has is the light saber. The light saber is an extension of the spirit.

I'd also like to remind folks about several upcoming events. Don't forget to sign-up and join us for the annual church picnic on Sunday, March 26th at the White Tanks Regional Park. All are welcome for this fun, outdoor event. Join us at Ramada 4F from 2-6 p.m. and bring a main entree for your family to grill and an additional dish to share with the group. You can sign-up in the social hall. Park entry fee is \$6 per vehicle.

Please remember to start collecting basket items for our family service project, "Welcome to Arizona" which we will be assembling on Saturday, April 8th. We are partnering with the organization, Refugee Focus, to collect, assemble and deliver welcome baskets filled with calendars, bus passes, toiletries, etc. to a list of identified, new and existing refugee families. This project is open to the entire congregation as well as families. Children may work alongside of parents to help with the project as well as decorate baskets and make welcome cards. The event will take place in the Social Hall from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

---

**Please have information for the Newsletter submitted by Noon on the 15th of each month to the Editor, Charlie Mannino at [newsletter@uusurprise.org](mailto:newsletter@uusurprise.org)**

## Achieving Balance With Music

Debby Bullins, Music Director



April... time for flip flops, springtime activities and music! Sunday, the 2nd, the choir begins the month of April with a very thought provoking anthem, "Hope," words by Pamela Stewart, music by Greg Gilpin.

*It takes a breath and comes to life with every newborn cry  
and echoes in the laughter of the children running by.  
It promises the morning when the night birds start to sing  
and dreams beneath the winter snow of giving birth to spring.  
It reaches out and touches you; it takes you by surprise.  
It rises from the ashes where the fire of love has died.  
It beats within the frailest heart with gentle wings unfurled,  
to be set free and fly into each corner of the world.  
The quiet comfort of a dream you cling to in the dark may kindle and awaken it, this candle of the heart.  
The starry flame within your soul illuminates the way  
and leads you through the night into the light of day.  
Hope is not lost; hope is not gone; it is not dead; it still lives on  
though winds of fear and storms of doubt may try to drive or drown it out.  
For in that place where nothing thrives, against all odds, hope will survive!  
And though all else around me dies; hope will live on; hope will arise!*

On Sunday, April 9, please rise a little early and come for our last Special Music performance of the season. Beginning at 10:00 am, we are in for a special treat as violinist, Cameron Deal, and pianist, Kent Trostel, perform pieces by contemporary composers, Lindsey Stirling, Mark Maxwell, Brian Crain and Max Richter.

During service on April 9, Cameron and Rev. Terry join the choir on their anthem, "Blessings." It will be a morning you won't want to miss.



## BUUK Circle

*Julie Wambach*

BUUK Circle meets 2-4 pm on the third Thursday of the month in the Social Hall. Join us, whether you've finished the book or haven't even started. For more information, contact Julie Wambach [azwambach@icloud.com](mailto:azwambach@icloud.com).

Read Ahead! Here are our books for this spring and for our return in October.

April 20, 2017 - ***"The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt's New World"*** by Andrea Wulf. According to the publishers, "Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859) was the most famous scientist of his age, a visionary German naturalist and polymath whose discoveries forever changed the way we understand the natural world." A Best Book of the Year: The New York Times, The Atlantic, The Economist, Nature, Jezebel, Kirkus Reviews, Publishers Weekly, New Scientist, The Independent, The Telegraph, The Sunday Times, The Evening Standard, and The Spectator.

May 18, 2017 - ***"The Earth Is Weeping: The Epic Story of the Indian Wars for the American West"*** by Peter Cozzens. Brings together a cast of "fascinating characters including Custer, Sherman, Grant, and . . . Crazy Horse, Sitting Bull, Geronimo, and Red Cloud."

October 19, 2017 - ***"Turning Point: Essays on a New Unitarian Universalism"*** edited by Fredric Muir. Essays by 20 UU leaders calling for change in the denomination. **Note:** Paperback and Kindle available from [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).

## Social Activities

*Danean Mitchell*



OK guys and gals...get out your best Easter bonnet or make up a new one. Easter Sunday we will have an Easter bonnet parade with prizes for best guys and best gals. So put on your thinking caps or should I say your Easter Hat and enter. The parade will be in the social hall after services along with coffee and Easter treats. As a judge I will not be eligible to win. Even though I love my bunny ears.

## Denominational Affairs

*Sharon Beard*

**General Assembly** will be held at the New Orleans Convention Center in New Orleans, LA from June 21-25. A new UUA president will be elected, and one of the candidates is Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray from the Phoenix UU congregation! Registration opened on March 1st....go to [uua.org](http://uua.org) for more information and to register.

### ***Have you named our church in your will?***

A simple codicil added to an existing will can provide for continuance of our liberal church ideals.

For info call: Brooks Marshall at 623-362-1195

## We Are Here To Be Of Assistance!

*Lay Pastoral Care Committee*

If you, your family or another member of our congregation are experiencing illness, hardship, isolation or are in need of support, please contact Janet Kafel (530-340-3230), Lenore Gaudin (623-933-0186) the church office (623-875-2550) or speak with any of the committee members on Sunday at church. We wear a second name tag that says LAY PASTORAL CARE.

# Unitarian Universalist Church Newsletter

17540 N. Avenue of the Arts, Surprise, AZ 85378-2581

Phone: 623.875.2550

[www.uusurprise.org](http://www.uusurprise.org) Email: [uucsaz@aol.com](mailto:uucsaz@aol.com)



First Class Mail

## **Affirmation**

*Love is the spirit of this church*

*And service is its law.*

*This is our great covenant:*

*To dwell together in peace,*

*To seek the truth in freedom,*

*And to help one another.*

**Join us for Sunday service at 10:30 am**

*If you are not a member but would like to receive church announcements by email,  
please send your email address and full name to [uucsaz@aol.com](mailto:uucsaz@aol.com).*

## **Sermon Titles For April 2017**

*The Theme for April Is "Consolation/Desolation"*

**4/2 - Rev. Paul Clark ..... Why?**

**4/9 - Rev. Terry Sims ..... The Whole Life Special, Please – Hold the Pain**

I have been in the habit of considering desolation and consolation to be opposite feelings and states of being; that one excludes the other. That has led me to believe that desolation should be eliminated as completely as possible and that the purpose of consolation is to do that. But that may devalue both poles of the human experience.

**4/16 -Rev. Terry Sims ..... Looking on the Bright Side of Life**

There is an obvious reason that Christmas and Easter are the two major celebrations of the year for Christians. They focus, respectively, on the story of Jesus' birth to life and his rebirth to eternal life, two powerful consolations. For all of us, what do the Christian holy days tell us about the human condition?

**4/23 - Rev. Terry Sims..... Hope to Do Something**

This Sunday we will celebrate Earth Day. "Celebrate?" you ask. "Doesn't the evidence point to humanity desolating our planet, and our hopes for the future along with it?" "Well, yes," I answer. "But religion is about upending expectations, especially those of the hopeless variety."

**4/30 - Amy St. Peter ..... Lost and Found**

A spiritual community can be thought of as a lost and found. What do we lose when we come together? What do we find? We often lose things, our keys, socks, opportunities. We will explore the spiritual ramifications of getting lost and the freedom this offers.