

Unitarian Universalist Church Newsletter

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

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February 2017

From The Minister's Desk

As I've told you, I was not an eager or promising driver as a young person. Driving through Phoenix on our way home from church on January 15, I commented to my sister, Ronda, and my brother-in-law, John, that with such an unpropitious beginning, it is amazing that I now drive so regularly through Phoenix, the sixth largest city by population and the twelfth largest metropolitan statistical area in the United States.



That means there are hundreds of thousands of cars on the roads everyday here, millions of driver interactions with other drivers. Of course, any accident is one too many. But often I think to myself that it is surprising that we don't have more traffic accidents than we do. And that reminds me that the part of our lives spent driving is a positive metaphor for the rest of our lives. It is surprising and encouraging that there are not more collisions between us human beings than there are, with so many of us sharing this planet.

We have road signs, traffic lights, lane markers, traffic laws, and rules of the road. Almost all of us obey them almost all the time. And when we don't, it is often unintentional. In the rest of our lives off the road, almost all of us obey laws and observe unspoken rules that help us get along with each other almost all the time. In the billions of interactions people have with each other every hour across the world, the vast majority of business

contracts are followed, most social conventions like handshakes, saying "please" and "thank you", and returning a friendly greeting or a smile are observed. We agree on what should be done and do it. And when we don't, it is often unintentional.

All of us can be annoyed at times when other drivers do violate the unspoken rules of the road, for example when they cut us off or do not let us merge into their lane smoothly. But rarely do such incidents result in violent conflicts. Road rage is infrequent, fortunately. Similarly, most of our everyday involvements with other people are peaceful, despite frequent misunderstandings, frustration, and irritation. We ignore minor infractions of social graces like unfriendliness from a retail clerk, and forgive larger hurts like an insensitive remark from a friend. When we need to make adjustments to accommodate other people, we most often do.

And then there are the times when someone else is in real trouble. Vehicles and people collide, hurting the people inside, ruining days, sometimes ending lives or causing serious injury. Others see those in trouble and what they need, pull off to the side of their own lives, and do what they can to help.

I find hope in the ordinary operation of our world most of the time according to shared conventions. I find even more hope in those times when people see an opportunity to be of real help to someone else and act according to the best within them. That hope and joy in life is what we Unitarian Universalists try to notice and celebrate. I'll see you in church.

Faithfully yours,

Terry

President's Letter to Congregation

Pat Lindgren, President



For most of my adult life I have lived alone. That means that I had to do all the tasks and jobs that are necessary to maintain a home. Occasionally I could hire someone to do some of the jobs, but it was mostly me. If I had a family, I could have shared the work and the joy of a home.

In many ways our church is like a home with a large family. It takes a lot of work to keep it going, and it is best when we all share the work. This is a list of the tasks that need to be done every week.

- Greeters (1 or 2) – someone at the front door to greet people when they come in and to direct the visitors to the welcome center.
- Welcome Center staff (1 to 3) – people to help the visitors by giving them a name tag, explaining about the service and the coffee hour afterward, showing them where the restroom are, etc.
- Ushers (3 or 4) – we need three or four people to hand out the Order of Service, to get microphones to our visitors when they are introducing themselves, to pass the collection baskets and a few other tasks.
- Sound Booth managers and technicians (2) – with some training these people manage the microphones and sound equipment.
- Kitchen helpers (2 to 4) - for the social hour to make the coffee, arrange any snacks, collection the cups, load the dishwasher and other tasks to keep the kitchen clean.
- Counters (2) to count and deposit the collection funds.
- Teachers and teaching assistants (at least 6) - for the children's religious education.
- Opening and closing the church (2)– someone to get there early and unlock the church and someone to make sure it is locked up again after the social hour.

Some of these tasks are more complicated enough to require a couple hours of training and some can be learned just by reading a one page instruction sheet.

As you can see it takes a lot of people to run this family's house each Sunday and that does not count the musician, the choir, the minister or guest

speaker and worship leader. I am asking all our members to volunteer for at least one or two jobs each month. If we all share the work, then no one needs to be loaded down every Sunday.

Please talk to Mary Ellen Baker or Sharon Steigmann about ushering, to Lisa Lawrence about RE teaching or assisting, to Sally Thomas about counting the collection, Sharon Forbes or Jim Dobbins about welcome center or Greeter, to Danean Mitchell about kitchen duty, or to me about any of these tasks. Let's all pitch in and make our church family home run smoothly.

While I am talking about volunteering, I would like to thank all the people who schedule these tasks, who lead and serve on committees, who take care of the landscape, and who serve on the worship team. I have a special commendation to the team currently working on the auction, they are planning a great one for this year.

Honoring Our 90+-Year-Old Members Sunday, February 12th

Bonnie Saunders

After the service on Sunday, February 12th, our Church will honor our 90+-year-old members with a special Valentine cake. All of them will be invited and given rides so we hope all of them will be able to attend church and this event that day. Bonnie will contact them, learn some information about their long lives, and honor them on the 12th by reading some of this information.

If by any chance, you are a 90+-year-old member and Bonnie Saunders has not contacted you, PLEASE get in touch with her by e-mail (Bonniesaun@aol.com) or phone.(623-825-7105 -- leave message).

Surprise Elementary Volunteers

Surprise Elementary, our church's adopted school, is looking for more volunteers. There are numerous jobs they could use help with. You decide how much time you have and when you are available. There is an application and security check required before you can volunteer. If you would like to join those church members now having a wonderful time with this work, contact Julie Wambach at azwambach@icloud.com or see her Sundays after church services.

Legends Of The Celtic Harp

Debby Bullins, Music Director

Let's raise the roof in song on February 5th at 10:10 am with our Hymn Sing! Please come and join



Connie Jahrmarkt and me as we joyfully sing some of our favorite hymns around the piano.

On February 25th at 7 pm, **Legends Of The Celtic Harp**, return for an evening of music and storytelling. \$15 Tickets are available Brown Paper Tickets online at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2774427>

or \$20 at the door.

"Legends Of The Celtic Harp" is a musical journey into the heart of a legendary instrument. Three of the premier Celtic harpers in the world, Patrick Ball, Lisa Lynne and Aryeh Frankfurter, have created a dramatic ensemble that takes you deep into the myths, stories, magic and fabled history of this most captivating instrument.

Legends of the Celtic Harp is a trio of Celtic harpers who have toured extensively throughout the US to sold out audiences and rave reviews. One recent review states "Legends of the Celtic Harp is a blend of music and oratory, falling somewhere between concert and theater. It spanned nearly the range of human feeling, from humor to tragedy, tenderness to rage, reality to mysticism, and more besides. The effects were powerful and exhilarating." Audiences will hear three Celtic Harps including the rare wire strung, Swedish Nyckelharpa, Cittern and Irish Bouzouki intertwined with moving stories from historic journals, myths and legend.

Patrick Ball is an American master of the Irish harp and a captivating spoken word artist. He has recorded nine instrumental and three spoken word albums which have sold well over a half million copies internationally, winning national awards in both the music and spoken word categories. Patrick's critically acclaimed concerts and solo theatrical productions have toured extensively throughout the United States, Canada, Ireland and the UK, and have been awarded grants by the California Arts Council and the Circle of Excellence Award from the National Storytelling Association.

Lisa Lynne is a multi-instrumentalist and performer who has gained worldwide recognition for her original music featuring her Celtic Harp.

She is widely acclaimed for composing memorable and heartwarming melodies on the Windham Hill/ Sony music labels that have repeatedly placed in the Top 10 & Top 20 on the Billboard New Age music charts. Lisa tours year round performing at large US festivals and performing art centers. Her work in therapeutic music has gained recognition from NBC, CNN, Fox News Atlanta and numerous newspaper and magazine articles including the Wall Street Journal. Lisa's music is heard throughout the award winning PBS special "Alone in the Wilderness," amongst many other soundtracks for commercial television and independent films.

Aryeh Frankfurter is also a renowned Celtic harper and world traveling multi-instrumentalist who went from virtuosic progressive rock violin to intricate Swedish folk and Celtic Music. He began with Classical violin at the age of three. His early studies and successes led him to explore various ethnic and international musical genres. Aryeh taught himself to play a variety of instruments bowed and plucked and most recently the rarely seen Swedish Nyckelharpa. His uncommon approach to the Celtic harp and folk harp repertoire, his numerous critically and commercially successful albums have earned him credit as a musician, recording and performance artist of extraordinary talents and abilities.



Circle Suppers

Join with other members of our Congregation for some food and conversation. Circle suppers are potlucks held in someone's home. It is a fun way to get to know your fellow UUs. One real advantage of potlucks nowadays is that delis have a great selection so you don't even have to cook if that's not your thing.

There were two circle suppers in November. Participants had a good time, and we hope to have even more people for the next suppers. These are being planned for the last weekend in January (27, 28, 29). Please indicate your date preference on the sign up sheet in the social hall.

Further information is printed by the signup sheet or feel free to call one of us.

Susie Cole 406.600.8857 or Nancy Flann 623.583.4636

The Monthly Book Report

MaryAnne Balzer

The Library staff hopes your winter is going ‘well read’ as we curl up in these shorter days and enjoy our quiet inner home spaces. Please stop by on Sunday’s to check out a terrific read just waiting for you!

Periodically in the Library we review our shelves comparing books on the shelves or checked out to our ‘shelf list’ cards. These special cards function as the tracking system of the books a Library has on its shelves. The review this year was completed during November. Since that time we have continued to search for 11 books not located.

Below is the list of the missing books. Please, if you are still using any of these books complete the check out card and leave it on the desk in the Library. If you are finished with the book, please return it. Thank you so much for your help in maintaining your UU Library.

“Exploring Religious Freedom,” by Robert Monk, shelf number 200.MON

“Rocks of Ages: Science and Religion in the Fullness of Life,” by Stephen Jay Gould, shelf number 215.GOU

“Seventy-Three Voices,” by editors Raible, Christopher and Darling, a UUA publication, shelf number 245.RAI

“Wake Up! Daily Lessons for a More Liberated and Loving Life,” by Tom Owen-Towle, shelf number 291.4OWE

“Economic Democracy, A Grand Strategy for World Peace and Prosperity,” by L.W. Smith, shelf number 330.SMI

“The Arab Mind,” by Raphael Patai, shelf number 306.PAT

“The World Treasury of Modern Religious Thought,” by Jaroslav Pelikan, shelf number 808.8PEL

“The Poems of Emily Dickinson,” shelf number 811DIC

“Red Bird,” by Mary Oliver, shelf number 811.54OLI

“The Art of Living,” by Wilferd Peterson, shelf number 814.PET

“A. Powell Davies and His Times,” by George Marshall, shelf number 92DAV

*Thank you, and have a blessed day
shared with a good book!*

Membership

Sharon Beard

December 2016 was a great month for acquiring new members! Please welcome the following people who joined us: Lois Bartels, Marion Francis,



Dick and Barb Andrews



Ernie Kassian



Bill and Barbara Hughes

Kathryn Pabitch emails contact information for new members, as well as changes to information for current members.



The Fable Of The Dollar Bill

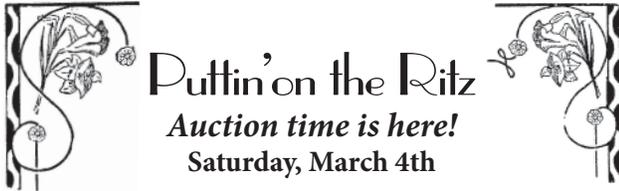
Here is just a little note to explain the “story” told by Lee Ormsbee and Jan Lundstrom. The “fable” was brought to us by the late Phyllis Burnett. She obtained it at a past GA and modified it to suit our needs.

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!





Puttin' on the Ritz
Auction time is here!
Saturday, March 4th

Join us for an evening of fun, entertainment, lively conversation, good food, and an opportunity to support the church. We'll be *Puttin' on the Ritz*, having a wonderful time with our swell beaux, rubbin' elbows and spending our last dime.

The evening begins with numerous choices of fine goods to bid on during the Silent Auction, while our servers circulate offering wine and hors d'oeuvres.

Dinners, trips, games, family fun, and other selections of activities will be open for bids in the live Auction. The pace of the auction will be amazing as we have two auctioneers to field your bids!

Dan Reed and friends will entertain us during dinner, which will be followed by our Dessert Dash, which was a big hit last year.

As dinner and dessert are finished, volunteers will be ready to finalize your purchases.



The evening's schedule is:

- 4:30 - Silent auction
- 5:30 - Live auction
- 6:30 - Dinner
- 7:20 - Dessert Dash
- 7:30 - Finalizing of our purchases

Ticket Sales begin Sunday, February 5th

Dinner - \$15.00

Children's Menu - \$7.00

Contact: Jeff and Priscilla London 952-200-0643



BUUK Circle

Julie Wambach

BUUK Circle meets 2-4 pm in the Social Hall on the third Thursday of the month. Our next meeting will be February 16, 2017. Look to the weekly announcement for this month's book, or contact Julie Wambach azwambach@icloud.com.

You are welcome to join us if you've not finished the book, or even started.

**Great Decisions 2017 U.S.
 Foreign Policy Discussion Series**

Bonnie Saunders

How can you make sense of what is happening in the world? You can join thousands of Americans who participate in Great Decisions Discussions on U.S. Foreign policy, many of whom send in their opinion ballots in an attempt to sway opinion in the State Department. Join Bonnie Saunders in February and March for these discussions.

In January, Bonnie will have the briefing books available in church for \$16 each - you will need to read the article on each topic before the discussion. If you don't want to drive at night, Bonnie teaches this course on Thursday afternoons at Sun City Grand in February and March (non-residents can take courses there for a fee) and on Wednesday afternoons at R.I.S.E. in March and April. If you don't see her at church, e-mail her at BonnieSaun@aol.com.

Topics and dates for these discussions will be at 7:00 p.m. on the following Mondays:

- 2/6:..... The Future of Europe
- 2/13: Trade and Politics
- 2/20: Conflict in the South China Sea
- 2/27: Saudi Arabia in Transition
- 3/6:.....U.S. Foreign Policy and Petroleum
- 3/13: Latin America's Political Pendulum
- 3/20: Prospects for Afghanistan and Pakistan
- 3/27: Nuclear Security

Denominational Affairs

Sharon Beard

District Assembly will be held March 31st to April 2nd at Tucson area UU churches. Registration opened on January 15....go to pswduua.org for further information and to register.

A great deal of information and a video about the conference as well as the registration process is found at Justiceda2017.weebly.com.

The assembly includes field trips on Saturday during the day and a business meeting to be held via video conferencing connecting four base congregations in cities where people will be staying.

The field trips are immersion experiences designed to connect participants to the social, environmental, and spiritual facets of immigration justice.

The Start of January Was Sad For Me

Lisa Lawrence, DRE

The beginning of our new year had me sending out class cancellation notices to our families due to lack of volunteer coverage. Although we did have coverage on Sunday the 15th, classes will again need to be cancelled for lack of coverage many Sundays afterward through the middle of May, especially in the K-4 class which will affect the most children and families.



Our program is good. I've been told so by many of you, but not enough people seem to want to invest. I want to point out that as RE is a volunteer-driven program, it is crucial that everyone try to pick up a few dates so that the program can run consistently, and if you have children enrolled in RE it is an expectation that you will help to support it.

The majority of our teacher positions are filled. What we need most are classroom assistants. Being a classroom assistant requires no prep! They are a second set of eyes, help read stories and contribute to discussion.

Many of our family members and supporters have already stepped up to volunteer as a teacher or assistant, and many haven't. If you haven't, or aren't currently signed up to assist, even volunteering on a few Sundays will keep us from having to cancel future classes. Here is a list of possible closure dates for each classroom and if you have never or aren't currently signed-up, please do so. To sign up, contact Lisa Lawrence at lisal@uusurprise.org.

K-4th

2/19	Need an assistant
3/19	Need a teacher
4/2	Need an assistant
4/16	Need a teacher
4/23	Need an assistant
5/7	Need an assistant
5/21	Need a teacher

5th and Up

3/5	Need a teacher
4/30	Need a teacher
5/21	Need an assistant



Volunteers Are The HEART OF Our Religious Education Program.

Day at the Legislature

Sally Thomas

Are you wanting to get more involved in political activities this year? This year's Day at the Legislature is Monday, February 20th, 10 am-3 pm. Join UUs from across Arizona at the state legislature! Meet your representatives, share your story, and build relationships that will empower your advocacy into the future. I will schedule appointments with our representatives from Districts 21 and 22.

<http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/51510/c/279/images/2014%20DATLSingingGroup.jpg> Tell the legislator you appreciate his/her service.

- Ask what his/her priorities are for this session.
- What he/she expects will be accomplished this session.
- Briefly tell your personal story so that each person in your group has a chance to speak.

Let's meet after our church service on February 19th to discuss what we may want to say to our state legislators. We will meet at our church at 9 am on February 20th to carpool to the capitol. Please register at uujaz.org.



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.





Third International Women's Convocation
Asilomar Conference Grounds, Monterey Peninsula, CA, USA
February 16-19, 2017

Take advantage of Presidents' Day weekend to engage with U*U women from around the world at the Third International Women's Convocation, Asilomar Conference Center, CA, February 16-19, 2017. Connect, share, grow, celebrate, and empower in the unspoiled surroundings of this tranquil retreat. Registration is \$350. Bring one, two (or ten!) friends from your church and you qualify for a group discount

of \$50 off each! An additional \$50 discount is available for UU ministers. Young adults aged 18-40 can register at a special all-inclusive package rate. If you are interested in offering a workshop, please fill out our workshop request form online. Visit IntlWomensConvo.org for all details.

Social Activities

Danean Mitchell

Want to give "Special Thanks" to all my helpers at the New Year's Day Good Luck Soup Event. Sally Thomas, Ruth Hill, Michael Bischoff, Linda Vitale, George Czczyk and Sharon Beard for baking all those tasty corn muffins.

I am sad to report that our Sunday social hour volunteer, Deanna Lange, who has been a dedicated volunteer every Sunday for quite some time has resigned. She will be missed. I would like to thank her on behalf of the congregation for all her hard work. With that said, we need some volunteers to set up for the social hour after Sunday service. Our helpers would:

1. Put out the adult treats
2. Make the coffee and
3. Help with clean-up

It is my hope and vision to have rotating teams of volunteers within each category. If you are willing and able to help us out or have questions, please contact Danean Mitchell at 623-546-6050. So far, Marion Frances, Dick and Barb Andrews, Ruth Hill, Terri Anderson and BJ Martindale have signed up, Thank you in advance for your volunteering spirit.

Trivia: According to the Chinese Zodiac, 2017 is the year of the Fire Rooster and will occur from January 28 to February 15, 2018. The Rooster ranks tenth among the Chinese zodiac animals. In Chinese culture, Rooster represents fidelity and punctuality, for it wakes people up on time. People born in the year of the Rooster are beautiful, kind-hearted, hard-working, courageous, independent, humorous and honest. They like to keep home neat and organized. On the other side, they might be

arrogant, self-aggrandizing, persuasive to others. Your lucky numbers: 5, 7, 8; Avoid: 1, 3, 9; Lucky Flowers; gladiola, impatiens, cockscomb, and your lucky colors: golden, brown, yellow; avoid white and green. You are a rooster if you were born in 1933, 1945, or 1957. In celebration, on Sunday, the 29th we will be handing out fortune cookies with tea and coffee.



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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.*

Sermon Titles For February 2017

The Theme for February Is "Respect"

2/5 - Rev. Terry Sims Respect in Our Congregation

In practical response to our First Principle affirming and promoting the inherent worth and dignity of every person, our goal is to show respect to everyone. Each of us is an individual part of our congregation. How does our respect for each other show up in congregational life?

2/12 - Rev. Terry Sims Relational Respect

In celebration of Valentine's Day, we will consider the reality that with love, our lives become worthwhile and that without love, life is empty. But there is an unshakable foundation upon which the love we need so much is built. That foundation is respect.

2/19 -Rev. Terry SimsStill Marching for Respect

While I was in high school, there was genuine excitement around the Equal Rights Amendment. I never considered then that in 2017 we would still have to march for equality and respect for women. But here we are. How does our UU faith embolden us to insist on what is so undeniably right?

2/26 - Pat Lindgren, guest speaker R E S P E C T find out what it means to me.

Respect is for people, but not just for people. Land, ocean, animals, ideas, many things need and deserve respect.