

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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40th Anniversary 1975 - 2015

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From The Minister's Desk

Kevin Kelly is an author and the founding executive editor, now “Senior Maverick,” of “Wired” magazine.

Kelly spends much of his time considering intelligent computers, cybernetics (control of technological systems), and the future. Kelly was a futurist adviser on the Steven Spielberg directed movie “Minority Report.” His most recent book is called “The Inevitable.” In it, Kelly tries to predict the future by identifying what’s truly inevitable.



I recently heard an interview with Kelly on “Freakonomics Radio.” [<http://freakonomics.com/podcast/future-probably-isnt-scary-think/>.] He said: “Artificial intelligence will become a commodity like electricity, which will be delivered to you over the grid called the cloud. You can buy as much of it as you want and most of its power will be invisible to you as well.”

But of course it could all go wrong. Not necessarily because of anything inherent in AI itself, but because of us: “We’ve never invented a technology that could not be weaponized. And the more powerful a technology is, the more powerfully it will be abused.”

Nevertheless, Kelly remains optimistic: “[O]n average, for the past 100 years or so, things have improved incrementally a few percent a year in growth. And while it’s possible that next year that stops and goes away, the probable, statistics view of it is that it will continue.”

Kelly envisions a world where ever-more information is available at any time, summoned by a small hand gesture or voice command; where virtual reality augments our view of just about everything; where artificial intelligence is seamlessly stitched into our every move.” “Most of AI is going to be invisible to us. That’s one of the signs of the success of a technology — it becomes invisible. So invisible that without our even knowing about it, AI will read our medical imaging and approve our mortgages. It’ll drive our cars, of course, and perhaps become our confidante.” Kelly writes: “This is not a race against the machines. If we race against them, we lose. This is a race with the machines.”

Two related subjects particularly caught my attention during the interview. The first was “One of the inevitable trends is ‘dematerialization’— the fact that it takes so much less stuff to make the products we use. [T]hat’s a long, ongoing trend. The most common way is to use design to be able to make something that does at least the same with smaller amount[s] of matter. An example I would give is like the beer can, which started off as being made of steel and is basically the same shape and size, but has reduced almost a third of its weight by using better design.” I think I could get excited about a future world in which we rely less on materials.

The second of Kelly’s ideas that sparked this column was: “I think each time we have an invention in AI that beats us at what we thought we were good at, each time we have a genetic engineering achievement that allows us to change our genes, we are having to go back and redefine ourselves and say, “Wait, wait, wait. What does it mean to be human?” Or “what should we be as

humans?” And those questions are things that maybe philosophers have asked, but I think these are the kinds of questions that almost every person is going to be asking themselves almost every day as we have to make some decisions about: is it OK for us to let a robo-soldier decide who to kill? Should that be something that only humans do? Is that our job? Do we want to do that? They are really going to come down to . . . dinner-table-conversation level of . . . what are humans about? What do we want humans to become? . . . So I think that we will have an ongoing identity crisis personally and as a species for [the] next, at least . . . forever.”

Yes, it is not hard for me to believe those questions will continue to be with us in the future. Because they have been with us from the beginning and they will evolve as we humans do. They are questions we actively and explicitly ask in Unitarian Universalism and in this congregation. I'll see you in church.

Yours in our faith,



President's Letter to Congregation

Pat Lindgren, President

In a few weeks, several of our congregation members and Rev. Terry will be traveling to New Orleans for the annual UUA General Assembly. There we will meet and interact with thousands of UUers from around the country and the world. We will participate in business meetings to discuss the future of our faith and will elect a new President. Beside



the business meeting in the morning, we will have over a hundred breakout session, in the afternoon to choose from and special events every evening,

One of my favorite activities of GA is the Service of the Living Tradition, held Thursday evening, where we recognize and honor ministers in transition, ministers getting fellowships or credentials, those retiring from active service and those who have died. It is always a very moving service.

I also like the Ware Lecture on Saturday evening. This year's speaker is Bryan Stevenson, the founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative

in Montgomery, Alabama.

I also love the Sunday morning worship service which you will be able to see live streamed in the Sunday service in our church on June 25th. This is the one time a year I get to feel like I'm in a megachurch service.

Our faith has been going through considerable turmoil in the past few months with the resignation of our President and several other leaders. The UUA Board of Trustees appointed three people to be interim co-presidents until the election at GA.

Then two days ago, our Moderator, Jim Key, announced his resignation effective immediately due to significant health concerns. One of the Moderator's primary duties is to lead the General assembly. Our by-laws require the Board to fill this vacancy for the period until a special election can be held (GA 2018). Vice Moderator Denise Rimes has assumed the duties of Moderator until the Board makes the appointment.

If you are interested in learning more about this annual convention, please check out the UUA website about GA at this address <https://www.uua.org/ga>.

After the Assembly, I will be going to Minnesota for more than two weeks to see my family. I will return to church after July 14th. I will miss you all while I am gone.



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!

Happy 97th Birthday



John Cline arranged a small gathering to help Ann Winsor celebrate her 97th...her goal is to reach 100! We'll be there to help you celebrate, Ann!

UU Movie Night

Linda Vitale

UU Movie Night will show *Hidden Figures* on Tuesday June 13th at 7 PM.

It is the incredible untold story of three brilliant African-American women mathematicians who worked at NASA during the Space Race against the Soviets. They were the brains behind Project Mercury and other missions, where they calculated flight trajectories and elaborate math equations guiding space capsules into re-entry.



These women endured an undervalued appreciation of their abilities. They had to perform their work all while dealing with the racist and sexist assumptions of their white co-workers. Their participation often resulted in overlooked contributions during a pivotal moment in American history. This visionary trio crossed all gender and race lines to inspire future generations. Nominated for Best Picture and Best Original Screenplay, you won't want to miss this inspiring true story. Run time is 127 minutes, so bring your own pillows, snacks and drinks. Hope to see you there!

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

Landscape Update

Helen & Jack Sheehan

Kudos to the person who rescued the valuable and brand new pruning saw left on the grounds and placed in the pruning equipment bucket in the fire hall. Our landscape man, Lucio, was thrilled to retrieve it.

Also, the replacement for the saguaro was solved. A cutting was taken from one of Mordecai and Lenore's dramatic cactus of which we have three elegant specimens. It's not tall enough now to look over the monument wall, but will soon take its place in the landscape.

Housing and Property News

Ken Saunders

The man on our church roof is from Sun Valley Solar Solutions and last week he was trying to determine why two of our beautiful 145 solar panels were only putting out half power. He says that the two panels need replacing under warranty, and he will return with the new ones needed. Our system, was put on line in November of 2013 and has produced over 214 megawatt hours of power to date.

We should have the stolen "A" replace on our sign out front in a week or so.

When we "In-gather" in September the carpets will have been cleaned (last done 2014). Also the parking lot will have been re-sealed and re-stripped (last done 2013).

And most importantly our "Sacred Urn" (coffee maker) has some internal parts replaced and the spout drips repaired!



Please have information for the Newsletter submitted by Noon on the 15th of each month to the Editor, Charlie Mannino at newsletter@uusurprise.org

Musings From The Loft

Debby Bullins, Music Director



After two years of planning, my husband and I had the privilege of taking a west bound 17 day cruise through the Panama Canal in April. As many of you know, the Canal's expansion was completed in 2015. I expected the trip to be an education into the history of Panama, its people and rich culture, the technical details of the building of the original canal as well as insight into the expansion. We also had experiences of walking the beaches in Aruba, touring the Old City of Cartagena, and hiking amongst the clouds of the Costa Rican rainforest. There were lots of days of relaxing on the ship, meeting people and making a few new friends.

The vast diversity in passengers and crew was a welcome surprise. These strangers from all over the world were interested in how we were coping with such division in the United States. They shared their thoughts and concerns about the future, not only in the U.S. but in their countries as well. They spoke freely about how all are affected by the conflict and hatred they see from our country. We had deep discussions at dinner about their healthcare systems, forms of government, racism and inequality. There was no shouting, finger pointing, or hatred. The calmness of the conversations, their genuine interest in us was refreshing and real. We came away from the trip with a feeling of world community that we had never experienced.

The last four days of the trip allowed me to reflect on the total experience. It was on these last days that I thought of the lyrics to this wonderful song, "I Need You To Survive" by David Frazier. I shared them with our new friends we met from Scotland, and I would like to share them with you.

I need you, you need me.

We're all a part of God's body.

Stand with me, agree with me.

We're all a part of God's body.

It is his will that every need be supplied.

You are important to me, I need you to survive.

I pray for you, you pray for me.

I love you, I need you to survive.

I won't harm you with words from my mouth.

I love you, I need you to survive.

It is his will, that every need be supplied.

You are important to me, I need you to survive.

As we break for summer, I plan on thinking of these lyrics daily. I hope they have meaning for you as well.



RE Report

Lisa Lawrence, DRE

Thank you for a great year!

I especially want to thank all of our teachers and assistants for their volunteer service. Your time, energy and effort are invaluable to both our children and our program. Our children's

RE program continues to be volunteer-driven and we continue to need you.



May 21st was the last day of classes for this year's RE season. Although there will be no scheduled classes, we will continue to accommodate our families by providing childcare each Sunday through

September 3rd. Regular RE classes will resume on September 10th.

Keep a look later this summer for information on program and curriculum changes.

Have a fun and safe summer vacation!

Summer Schedule

5/28/17

Childcare will be provided in the preschool room over the summer months for children aged 2 and up.

Children are, also, always welcome in the sanctuary during service under the direct supervision of their own parents.

Scheduled religious education classes will resume on September 10th.

The Monthly Book Report

MaryAnne Balzer

To all our UU readers, a reminder: I am traveling in cooler climates until Mid-September. The Library, as always, remains open for your use. Instructions for self-service locating books and check-out procedures are posted in the Library to help you with your needs. Please continue to enjoy the great selections our Library offers!

Now, let's look at a few of the titles currently on the Library shelves:

"The Three Big Questions for a Frantic Family: A Leadership Fable? About Restoring Sanity To The Most Important Organization In Your Life," by Patrick Lencioni, number 646.78LEN. A business consultant and father of four boys, here he turns his attention to helping families organize their lives. "Having experienced the stress of a frantic family firsthand, he and his wife began applying some of the tools he uses with Fortune 500 companies at home, and with surprising results. This is a book about restoring sanity to the most important organization in your life", Amazon.

"Frontier Woman, the Life of a Woman Homesteader on the Dakota Frontier," by Walker D. Wyman, retold from the notes and letters of Grace Fairchild, number 92FAI, filed with books by Members. "This is the story of a strong woman who succeeded on a harsh frontier where failure was common. South Dakota State University recognized her in 1952 with the title Eminent Homemaker," reads the book cover. Fairchild came to own and operate a 1440 acre ranch in the end. She was the Mother of Emma Patterson, a founding member of the original Sun City UU Church.

"The Little Book of Wholeness and Prayer: an eight-week meditation guide," by Kimberly Beyer-Nelson, number 291.4BEY. Goodreads say of this book: A self-guided program introduces the rich tradition of daily prayer practice. Six exercises for each week invite readers to participate actively in a daily 'dance between one's self and God' by using the senses, memory, emotion and imagination in combination with the discipline of intentional daily routine. A peaceful book for summer meditation.

"The Tao of Healing: Meditations for Body and Spirit," by Haven Trevino, number 299.5TRE. "The profound, poetic wisdom of the Tao Te Ching lends itself beautifully to the subject of healing. The author's modern adaptation of this ancient work captures the essence of the original in language accessible to all. The Tao of Healing gives wonderful insight," reads Amazon's review, "reading this book is like listening to the heart of the universe sing an ancient melody of truth and wisdom."

Have a blessed day shared with a good book!

BUUK Circle

Julie Wambach

BUUK Circle meets in the Social Hall on the third Thursday of the month. After our May meeting, we are off for the summer, but we've already chosen our book for October. For more information, contact Julie Wambach azwambach@icloud.com.

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.

Name Tags

Janet Kafel

Magnetic name tags are now available for purchase through Janet Kafel. They are \$5.25 each. To order yours, see Janet on Sundays at the table by the front door of the Social Hall or contact her at janetkafel@gmail.com or 530-340-3230.

When you see a name badge with a green dot, it signifies a new member. Take time to say hello, and welcome them to our congregation.

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.

High Tea Time

Reggie Johnston

“From the bubbly to the mousse, everything was beautifully presented” wrote one participant. Ladies were dressed in their finest, wearing decorated hats, and ready to enjoy a traditional English tea. The mood was set by the elegant table settings, the decorative hanging tea cups, and the servers frilly aprons. Oohs and Aahs led to the comments of “Do it again next year!” It was a fun, successful auction event!



Suggested language for including UU Church of Surprise in your will or estate plan:

I herein give and bequeath \$_____, or _____ percent of the rest, remainder and residue of my estate, or the proceeds from the sale of real estate by my estate that I own located at _____ to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Surprise located at 17540 N. Avenue of the Arts, Surprise, AZ 85378-2581.
Federal tax ID # _____

*For more information about creating a legacy to the UU Church of Surprise
Please call Brooks Marshall at 623-362-1195*

Including a gift to UU Church of Surprise Arizona in your will or estate plan helps your church in its mission of providing a liberal voice in our Community, State and Country.

Simplicity Just a few sentences in your will or trust are all that is needed.

Versatility You can structure the bequest to leave a specific item or amount of money, make a gift contingent on a certain event, or leave a percentage of your estate to us.

Tax Relief If you are subject to estate tax, your gift allows you to be eligible for an estate tax Charitable deduction for the gift's full value.

Transportation Resources:

Valley Metro Transportation Service - 602-266-8723

Previously listed as Dial-A-Ride and now run by Discount Cab. They will provide transportation within the Surprise area for \$1.00 per person each way. For medical appointments in Sun City, Sun City West and Peoria the charge is \$1.25, per person each way. They will only take you to medical appointments outside of Surprise.

Benevilla in Surprise - 623-584-4999

This non-profit agency provides free food shopping services for shut ins. You provide a grocery list over the phone, and they will shop for you free of charge. You only pay for the groceries. They also provide transportation for medical appointments, a friendly visitor service who will visit or call, and a handy person who will do minor repairs like change a light bulb; a wonderful service for people in need.

Peoria Dial-A-Ride - 623-773-7435, \$3.00 ADA \$2.00, needs 1 day advance notice.

Northwest Valley Connect - 623-282-9300

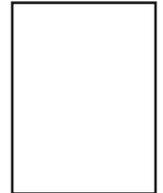
NVC helps connect seniors and people with disabilities with available public, private and volunteer transportation resources based on their individual needs. Personalized assistance and support is available by contacting our Call—Click—Connect center at (623) 282-9300. Area transportation resources are also listed on our website at NorthwestValleyConnect.org.

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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 June 2017

This months theme is "Prophetic Imperative"

6/4 - Rev. Terry Sims..... The Gate From Past to Future

The Unitarian Universalist tradition has many prophets for us to admire. But admiration is probably not what our forebears would have asked from us or our faith today. What is our purpose in the present?

6/11 - Rev. Terry SimsSignposts We Don't Want to Follow

Prophets are often unwelcome because they tell us what we don't want to face. But some futures, for ourselves and the world, are better than others. And that means we have to pick a side.

6/18 - Rev. Paul Clark TBA

6/25 - Broadcast of Service from General Assembly