

# Unitarian Universalist Church Newsletter

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

Phone: 623.875.2550 // [www.uusurpriseaz.org](http://www.uusurpriseaz.org) // Email: [uucsaz2@gmail.com](mailto:uucsaz2@gmail.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



40th Anniversary 1975 - 2015

**Newsletter Editor:** Charlie Mannino

[uucsnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:uucsnewsletter@gmail.com)

**Printing:** Kathryn Pabich

May 2018

## From The Minister's Desk

I've been thinking about this question for a long time: "When are we justified in dealing with people on the basis of what they have said and done over time?" That is, if someone has in our experience uniformly lied, or cheated, or been



unkind, or untrustworthy, are we justified in our future interactions with that person to anticipate that s/he will again lie, or cheat, or be unkind, or untrustworthy?

The professor in an ethics course I took asked a question one day in class that has stayed with me ever since. He asked, "How

many times do you have to lie before you become a liar?" More than once? Fewer than a thousand times? I don't know that there is a good answer to that question. I don't remember hearing one volunteered in class. I'm sure that the point of the professor's question was not to find an answer but to challenge us to think about the conundrum.

Stated generally, the conundrum is "When do human beings become what they do on a regular basis?" I assume for purposes of this exploration that we are justified in deciding at least to avoid people who repeatedly act unethically – lying, cheating, stealing, hurting others. One of the disturbing puzzles in the current state of our tribal politics is the extent to which some of us will ignore flagrant transgressions by our politicians so long as they are members of our tribe and promote our agenda.

An even harder question is whether we become what we consistently believe, even when we do not act on those beliefs. If so, are we ever justified in

disliking someone because of what they believe? We're probably not going to agree with anyone on everything. So it would be foolish to base friendships or willingness to deal with each other on total agreement. If we want any social interaction at all, we have to agree to disagree on issues that do not matter very much.

But are there some core or deeply held beliefs that form our character, who we are? When do our beliefs become so much a part of us that they define us? If others consistently express hate for another person or group of people, should we be friends with them? Does our friendship indirectly support their hatred, even if we do not share it?

I remember how shocked, hurt, and confused my dad was when he found out that someone he'd become friends with was an overt and vocal racist. When Dad told me what he had found out, I said confidently, "Well I assume that's the end of that friendship! How could you be friends with a racist?" But it wasn't that simple for Dad. I wonder how simple it would have been for me if it had been one of my friends that I discovered held views that I believed were morally wrong.

Racism, homophobia, xenophobia, misogyny, hatred based on religious affiliation, belief that profit or personal gain justifies sacrificing people's lives and health, all of those are examples of morally wrong beliefs. And yet if we refuse to interact with people who hold such beliefs because we find them intolerably odious, do we not increase the tribal isolation that plagues us? Do we not encourage them to reject us as we reject them? Do we not give up on the hope for positive transformation?

I struggle with these questions mightily and mostly unsuccessfully, I'm afraid. But, as confounding as the questions are, as frustrating as my struggle is,

I do not want to stop worrying about the questions or accept unsatisfying answers. That's why I come to church to be with all of you, to struggle with difficult questions together. As the late Rev. A. Powell Davies once said, "life is just a chance to grow a soul." I'll see you in church.

Yours in our faith,

## President's Letter to Congregation

*Pat Lindgren, President*

Last week I read a book. That is not unusual, I read 3 or 4 books a week. But this was a very special book. I read a small blurb in the newspaper that



Bill Gates had just read what he said is the most important book he had ever read. I decided I needed to try it. I ordered and downloaded the sample from ibooks and started to read. I knew right away that I wanted to read the whole book, so I bought and downloaded it.

The title of the book is "*Factfulness*." It was written by a prominent Swedish doctor, Hans Rosling with his son Ola Rosling and his daughter-in-law Anna Rosling Ronnlund. The subtitle is "Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World – and Why Things are Better Than You Think". I started reading it in the morning and could not stop until I finished it at 11:00 PM. I certainly agree with Bill Gates that it is the most important book I have ever read. Dr. Rosling discusses ten instinctive ways of thinking that cause people to see the world around them as in much worse shape than the facts show.

I believe that this book has a Unitarian Universalist philosophy; look at the facts, look for the majority, get things in proportion, slow change is still change, resist pointing your finger, take small steps. These are some of the "Factfulness Rules of Thumb." I hope you get a chance to read it too.

While I was writing this on April 15, Minnesota was in the middle of a major snow storm. It looks like they will set a record for the most snow in April. That means we will be able to enjoy having our friends here longer this year. As you can read in other articles in this newsletter, we have a very successful Generous Giving campaign and we had a very successful auction.

## Email Address Changes

Key email address changes have recently been made. It is very important that you add the following information to your church directory.

Debby Bullins, Music Director,

[uucsmusic@gmail.com](mailto:uucsmusic@gmail.com)

Lisa Lawrence, RE Director,

[uucslisal@gmail.com](mailto:uucslisal@gmail.com)

Charlie Mannino, Newsletter Editor,

[uucsnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:uucsnewsletter@gmail.com)



## 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 Lenore Gaudin (623-933-0186) or 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*.



## UU General Assembly

**June 20-24, 2018,  
in Kansas City, MO.**

Registration opened March 1st at UUA.org.

Once we receive delegate information,

I will let the congregation know more.

*Sharon Beard, Denominational Affairs Chair*

## UU Endowment Fund

Naming the Endowment Fund of the Church as a beneficiary of your estate or a specific asset, such as an IRA or life insurance plan, provides a simple way to begin your legacy now by providing for our church work in the future. If your circumstances change, you can alter your plans at any time.

For further information call:

Brooks Marshall at 623-362-1195.

# Generous Giving Campaign Report

Michele Marshall, 2018 Generous Giving Chair

Rev. Terry Sims, Minister

We are delighted to announce that the 12 week Generous Giving Campaign has ended and that it has been successful beyond our expectations and hopes. You have pledged enough to keep our minister, staff and programs intact and flourishing, enabling us to introduce others to this unique and beautiful religion. Thank you all for your patience, good will and financial commitment. Your Board has been especially helpful with their thoughtful remarks on Sunday mornings.

For those who may be interested, let us give you some details. The church has 190 members or pledging friends and 142 families or individuals who could pledge as a unit. Of those 142 families or individuals, through Friday, April 13, 2018 the church has received and recorded 93 pledges for 2018. Another 18 are paying, but we have no record of pledges from them. If you are one of those, thank you so much for your payments. If you would also fill out a 2018 pledge sheet, it would help us all very much in planning for our fiscal health.

That leaves 31 families or individuals for whom we do not yet have either a 2018 pledge or any payments. For those folks, it is not too late! We would invite you to be part of the astonishing success of the 2018 Generous Giving drive. Please fill out your pledge sheet today and claim your part of the celebration!

We are incredibly pleased to tell you that this congregation, all of us who have pledged or are paying, increased our 2018 pledges or gave new pledges totaling an amazing \$55,299.00!! That means we have claimed all of the 1-for-2 matching fund of \$24,000.00. 73 of us, fully 78% of all new and previous pledgers, were able to increase their 2018 giving above what we gave in 2017. A call went out, and you answered it! Adding the increased and new pledges to the matching fund means that our congregation will receive \$79,299.00 in identified contributions more than we did in 2017. The budget the congregation approved at the last annual meeting included a projected \$52,000.00 deficit. Obviously, thanks to all of you, we have more than eliminated that projected deficit for 2018! The total identified contributions pledged to date stands

at \$181,193.13, not including the \$24,000.00 in matching funds. We should be proud of ourselves and thank each other for making this happen!!

## BUUK Circle

Julie Wambach

BUUK Circle meets the SECOND Tuesday evening 6:30-8:30pm in the Choir Room. Please join us whether you've finished the book or haven't yet started it. For more information, contact Julie Wambach [azwambach@icloud.com](mailto:azwambach@icloud.com).

BUUK Circle usually does not meet June-September. Some who are in town are considering whether they would like to meet this summer. Let Julie Wambach know if you would like to join that group. We have chosen books for May, October, and November.

May 8, 2018, 6:30-8:30pm, Choir Room - "Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth" by Reza Aslan

"A real strength of the book is that it provides an introduction to first-century Palestine, including economics, politics and religion. Mr. Aslan uses previous scholarship to describe the precarious existence of Jewish peasants and the lower classes, and how the Romans and the Jewish upper class exploited the land and the people." --NY Times

October 9, 2018, 6:30-8:30pm, Choir Room - "We were Eight Years in Power: An American Tragedy" by Ta-Nehisi Coates.

Includes essays Coates first published in The Atlantic, as well as eight new ones. He covers the Obama presidency, as well as the explores the backlash that led to the election of Trump, who he calls "America's First White President."

November 13, 2018, 6:30-8:30pm, Choir Room "Hissing Cousins: The Untold Story of Eleanor Roosevelt and Alice Roosevelt Longworth" by Marc Peyser and Tom Dwyer. (also sold with subtitle "The Lifelong Rivalry of Eleanor Roosevelt and Alice Roosevelt Longworth")

The first cousins—one a daughter of a US President and the other a First Lady--grew up together and later each influenced American politics with quite different political views. A double biography.

# The Monthly Book Report

MaryAnne Balzer

“You must learn a new way to think before you can master a new way to be,” from author Marianne Williamson. This is a perfect quote for May. A time for renewal and growth. Welcome to spring everyone! Following the theme, we feature this selection of newly received books for your check out and reading enjoyment.

“***The Book of Awakening***,” subtitled: Having the Life You Want by Being Present in the Life You Have. By Mark Nepo, number 204.32NEP. The author “... opens a new season of freedom and joy--an escape from deadening, asleep-at-the wheel sameness--that is both profound and clarifying. His spiritual daybook is a summons to reclaim aliveness, liberate the self, take each day one at a time, and to savor the beauty offered by life’s unfolding. Reading his poetic prose is like being given second sight”. A wonderful read for spring season and a 5-Star rated book in Amazon.

“***Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life***,” by Karen Armstrong, number 177.7ARM. “In this important and thought-provoking work the author, one of the most original thinkers on the role of religion in the modern world, provides an impassioned and practical guide to helping us make the world a more compassionate place. The 12 steps she suggests begin with “Learn About Compassion,” and close with “Love Your Enemies.” In between, she takes up self-love, mindfulness, suffering, sympathetic joy, the limits of our knowledge of others, and “concern for everybody.” She shares concrete methods to help us cultivate and expand our capacity for compassion.” Another top rated 4.5-Star book in Amazon.

“***The Wisdom of Wilderness***,” subtitled *Experiencing the Healing Power of Nature*. By Gerald May, number 150.1MAY. “The author chronicles his outdoor forays. His prose uses a storyteller’s magic to plumb the profound mystery of outside events that provoke and foster inner change. Vivid details and masterful style place the reader in context: ‘Thunder came and it was my song, and the wind my courtesan, and praise welled up inside me as the rain poured, drenching down around and in and through me until the fire finally died under its flow

and there was nothing but cold dark chilling water covering everything, running down my legs into rivulets’, excerpted from the 5-Star Amazon review, a powerful ‘you are there’ read.

Enjoy these beautiful spring days absorbed in a terrific UU Library read!

## RE Report

Lisa Lawrence, DRE

Summer is coming and our classes are drawing to a close. The last day of classes is Sunday, May



20th. We will also be holding a teacher appreciation ceremony during service this day. Although children are welcome to sit through service with their families, supervised childcare will still be provided throughout the summer in the preschool room for children ages 2 and up.

In the classroom, our K & up classes have been having a good time learning about Judaism and Christianity while working through the Old Testament and hearing Bible tales. With many interpretations to be discussed and moral lessons to be considered, they have been keeping busy. Coming up in May we will delve into New Testament stories and begin to learn about Jesus; his birth, his life and his death.

In the preschool room, children just finished a unit on acceptance. The children learned that acceptance means to like or be okay with something even though it may be different than what we are used to. Our next unit is universal themes and concepts. Children will explore peace, gratitude, caring for the earth and teacher appreciation amongst other topics, a good lesson for young and old alike.

### ***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

## Equality in Music!

*Debby Bullins, Music Director*



May is a time for reflecting for me, a time to look back on the choir season and measure our successes and what we might do a little better. The UU Choir has made vast improvements in blend, tone and musicality which is a tribute to how hard they work and how much they listen to me and each other. They are an amicable group who mostly share the same interests, outlook and politics.

Contemplating this, I began to wonder whether we are that amicable and willing to listen when we encounter people who do not share our interests, outlook and beliefs. Recently I saw an updated interview on 60 Minutes with Daniel Barenboim, the Israeli conductor and founder of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra.

“In 1999, Mr. Barenboim and Edward Said founded the orchestra as a workshop for Israeli, Palestinian and other Arab musicians. Meeting in Germany, a place where the humanistic ideals of the Enlightenment are overshadowed by the Holocaust, they materialized a hope to replace ignorance with education, knowledge and understanding; to humanize the other; to imagine a better future. Within the workshop, individuals who had only interacted with each other through war found themselves living and working together as equals. As they listened to each other during rehearsals and discussions, they traversed deep political and ideological divides. Though this experiment in coexistence was intended as a one-time event, it quickly evolved into a legendary orchestra.

The West-Eastern Divan is nearly impossible. By bringing together Arab and Israeli musicians, it defies fierce political divides in the Middle East. During the years conflicts between the member’s countries have broken out. In 2006, because of the Lebanon War, some musicians could not attend the rehearsals. Those who did hotly debated and discussed what was happening. Emotions ran high, and the orchestra’s very existence and continuity seemed at stake. Through all this, there was meaningful exchange and mutual respect. Barenboim began the Divan’s performances with a written statement which said: ‘We aspire to total freedom and equality between

Israelis and Palestinians, and it is on this basis that we come together today to play music.’

The unique model of the West-Eastern Divan is more essential and timely than ever at this crucial moment in the history of the region. Widespread international support from individuals and organizations allows the Divan, and its universal ideals, to exist and progress.”

My summer challenge to you and myself is this... can I share my opinions, my beliefs, my political views and biases with others in a way that shows respect while disagreeing? Can we listen as much as we speak so that ideas might be shared in a way that we can move forward towards a common goal rather than just drawing a line in the sand? This experiment called ‘The West-Eastern Divan Orchestra’ shall be my inspiration showing that there is and can be equality... at least in music.

## Reminders:

*Rev. Terry Sims*

We have many activities at UUCS and keeping track of them can be a challenge. Our Church Administrator, Kathryn Pabich, keeps the church calendar up-to-date to avoid scheduling conflicts. But the calendar is only as accurate as the information Kathryn receives to put into it. So please remember to email or call Kathryn to schedule any events at the church. And if there are scheduling changes, including events that are cancelled, please let Kathryn know. Thank you for helping Kathryn keep our calendar and all of us current!

Our congregation has a Right Relations Covenant that guides us. I like to remind myself of it from time to time. It reads: “We commit to bring our best selves in our relationships with each other and to grow in spirit by deepening our connection to one another: to accept responsibility for our individual acts and promote justice and peace; to celebrate the joys of discovery, embracing the fullest measure of our humanity; to communicate with kindness; to serve with compassion and commitment; to openly share our laughter and tears; and to search for the divine in all that is.” For me, that says everything necessary to live well in community.

---

**Please have information for the Newsletter  
submitted by Noon on the 15th of each month  
to the Editor, Charlie Mannino at**

**[uucsnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:uucsnewsletter@gmail.com)**



**Please Support the Outlaw Dirty Money  
Voter Initiative**  
*Michael C. Piper*

Eight years ago, in a 5-4 vote, the United States Supreme Court issued the Citizens United decision. In Citizens United, the Court held that the free speech clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution prohibits the government from restricting independent expenditures for communications.

This landmark decision unleashed a flood of political contributions. Prior to Citizens United, there was \$143 million in campaign spending by outside groups during the 2008 election cycle. By 2016, that spending rose to \$1.4 billion, a nine-fold increase.

Today, wealthy and powerful people pour unlimited amounts of cash into our elections while shielding their identities. They operate in secret,

hiding behind legal barriers to keep us from knowing who they are.

I believe Arizonans have the right to make voting decisions based on complete information, including who is spending money to influence our votes. That's why I am gathering signatures to put an Arizona constitutional amendment on the ballot in the November general election.

This non-partisan amendment effort, led by former Attorneys General Tom Horne and Terry Goddard, says Arizonans have a right to know where the money in politics comes from. It would require that anyone who spends over \$10,000 trying to influence an Arizona election must disclose the original source of the money.

To support the campaign, please see the [outlawdirtymoney.com](http://outlawdirtymoney.com) website. If you'd like to sign the petition to put this proposed amendment on the November 2018 election ballot, I will have petitions available for your signature in the Social Hall before and after Sunday church services.

*Let's make 2018 the year when we secure our right to know who is funding political campaigns. Let's put the Outlaw Dirty Money constitutional amendment on the ballot and pass it in November. With your help, we can do this.*



[Home](#) [About](#) [Get Involved](#) [Religious Education](#) [Sermons](#) [Music](#) [Resources](#) [Blog](#)

**Visit our web site for  
current information**  
[www.uusurpriseaz.org](http://www.uusurpriseaz.org)

**Unitarian  
Universalist Church  
of Surprise**

A Progressive, Inclusive Faith Community

WELCOME



## 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. *This service is free of charge if you notify them at least 12 days in advance.*

### **Peoria Dial-A-Ride - 623-773-7435**

\$3.00 ADA \$2.00, needs 1 day advance notice. **Note:** As of January 1, 2017 Dial a Ride is not available unless you are ADA certified. To get ADA certification you have to be declared disabled for at least 6 months. This applies to people living in Surprise.

### **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](http://NorthwestValleyConnect.org).

**West Valley Connections - 623-282-9300** Call for information regarding services available.

## 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.

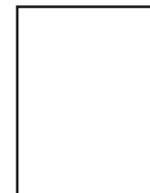


# Unitarian Universalist Church Newsletter

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

Phone: 623.875.2550

[www.uusurpriseaz.org](http://www.uusurpriseaz.org) Email: [uucsaz2@gmail.com](mailto:uucsaz2@gmail.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 [uucsaz2@gmail.com](mailto:uucsaz2@gmail.com).*

## **Sermon Titles For May 2018**

*The Theme for his month is "Beloved Community"*

### **5/6 - Rev. Terry Sims..... Finding Community**

Deep within us is the need to belong to something larger than ourselves. But in our time, it is difficult to find any community, much less the beloved one the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King spoke so passionately about. Today we will try to find a path to both.

### **5/13 - Rev. Dr. Walter F. Wieder, Minister Emeritus..... Mother's Day**

Mother's Day was first observed in the churches of Philadelphia, PA, on May 10, 1908, in response to a suggestion made by a Miss Anna Jarvis of that city. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson, following a resolution by the Congress of the United States, issued a proclamation designating the second Sunday in May to be Mother's Day. I am not the first to point out that there is a degree of hype and hypocrisy surrounding our observance of Mother's Day. There is, still, some ambivalence in the culture regarding the role of women and mothers. Perhaps you have noticed?

### **5/20 - Rev. Terry Sims..... Teaching and Learning Community**

Why do we need community? What does it take to make communities work? Who will teach us these things and where can we learn them? On this Teacher Appreciation Sunday, we will consider not only our own beloved learning community at UUCS, but the promise and possibilities of public schools as places where community is built and taught.

### **5/27 - Rev. Terry Sims..... Growing Community**

It is a challenge to create community anywhere, especially a beloved community. But making real our Sixth UU Principle, "world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all", may be both humanity's most difficult task and our most important calling.