

Unitarian Universalist Church Newsletter

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

Phone: 623.875.2550 // www.uusurpriseaz.org // Email: 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

Printing: Kathryn Pabich

June 2018

From The Minister's Desk

As I write this, I am just returning from a trip to South Carolina with my sister, Ronda, and my brother-in-law, John, to celebrate my 65th birthday. It was my first trip to the Low Country and the Intracoastal Waterway.

The Low Country has a longer history than any place I've ever lived in the U.S. The South Carolinians we talked to knew that history. The places we



visited opened it to us. We explored the UU Church in Charleston, founded in 1772, and the U.S.S. Yorktown aircraft carrier in Charleston Harbor. We strolled on boardwalks and eased through cypress and tupelo gum swamps on boats, wandered among gravestones in ancient

cemeteries watched over by huge, wide-limbed live oaks draped with Spanish moss. We walked in the steps of plantation and slave owners in their mansion and decorative gardens, and in the steps of the slaves in their two-room cabins filled with as many as 16 people, and in their "kitchen" vegetable garden behind those cabins. We passed the Mother Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, where on June 17, 2015, nine people were shot and killed by a 21-year-old white racist. A memorial of that tragedy and the forgiveness given to the shooter by the Mother Emanuel congregation resides in the Charleston airport

In the church yard of the First Scots Presbyterian Church, Ronda noticed that many of the tombstones, especially of young children, showed the year of death as 1858 or 1859. We later confirmed that the area suffered an epidemic during those years. At the

Yorktown, we went through an exhibit called the "Vietnam Experience". We saw the faces of some of the 58,000 young U.S. servicemen who fought and died in that war, ending with the Communist North overtaking the South, thus defeating the goal of the U.S.'s disastrous involvement there. I again asked myself what purpose was served by their deaths. I noticed a parallel of the tragic war between the North and the South in this country and the death and destruction of that war, the lives lost in war.

Surrounded by South Carolina's history, I could not help but think about all the people who lived and died to create it. Rev. John Drayton inherited the Magnolia Plantation before the War Between the States and lived there with his wife, supported by as many as 300 slaves. Rev. Drayton served his St. Andrews Episcopal congregation for 40 years. The slaves at Magnolia made the Draytons wealthy before the Civil War, first by doing the incredibly difficult work of clearing swamps, with only basic tools like shovels and pickaxes, later by working the swampy rice fields infested with alligators, six species of venomous snakes, and malaria- and yellow fever-carrying mosquitoes. Fifty percent of the slaves died before age 20; 90 percent by age 50. The Rev. Drayton never freed any of his slaves. And yet he built a school for them and saw to their education before the Civil War, when South Carolina law made doing so a crime. One and two generations later, a black man named Johnnie Leach grew up and raised 13 of his 18 children in one of the Magnolia slave cabins, caring for the Plantation's gardens, still in the hands of Drayton descendants, until he died at age 93.

I wonder again about what my place in history is and will be. I was spared going to war. I was born white and received unearned white privilege, still benefiting from land stolen from Native Americans

and labor stolen from African slaves. I was born in a time when medical advances have dramatically reduced infant mortality and the chances of dying of smallpox or yellow fever. I do not have to work in dangerous, life-stealing conditions. I am lucky. With all my good fortune, what will I do to help humankind? Will I use my advantages to make someone else's life better, more hopeful, more rewarding? Will I avoid hurting or taking advantage of others, instead showing them kindness and forgiveness? Will my life count for something, have impact in my time? I come to church to ask those questions and to work on the answers in our faith community together. I'll see you in church.

Yours in our faith,



President's Letter to Congregation

Pat Lindgren, President

For Mother's Day I sent cards to my two favorite mothers, my sister Melinda and my sister-in-law Nancy. This year I also got to send a card to my



niece-in-law Jeanna who will contribute a new twig to our family tree in November. We got to see and hear our Minister Emeritus Walt Wieder and Janet Wieder. It was great to see them both so well and happy. They had just returned from a cruise through the Panama Canal.

This is the last newsletter until September when our church year starts again. We have had a wonderful year since last September. Our membership is growing; we had a very successful auction (thanks to all the great people who ran it); we had an extremely successful Generous Giving campaign (thanks to Michele Marshall and everyone who pledged). Our children's activities and programs put together by Lisa Lawrence were great and the music we heard all year was fantastic (thanks to Debby Bullins).

As every year passes, I am more and more grateful to have discovered Unitarian Universalism and especially this church. The forty years that I wandered in the desert of None looking for a place where I could be myself and still be a part of a faith turned out to be worth it. As I once said in a

sermon, during those years I learned as much of what I did not believe in than what I did believe in. What I found here was a confirmation of the beliefs I had spent nearly a half century building neatly summed up in seven principles.

1. *The inherent worth and dignity of every person*
Every person, men, women, children, all races, all sexual orientations, all nationalities. We don't make up rules that say that women cannot preach from this pulpit or that God does not approve of gays or that dark skinned people don't belong in our church.
2. *Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations*
UUers are some of the most active workers for social justice in the world. We work on behalf of disadvantaged and oppressed people in our communities, our countries and in the world
3. *Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations*
The right of each person to find the faith of their own conscience is basic to Unitarian Universalists.
4. *A free and responsible search for truth and meaning*
Each person's right to freely search for their truth and meaning is one of the most important concepts in my faith, but with that right comes great responsibility to do that search and to allow others to do theirs.
5. *The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large*
Until I came to this church I never heard of one where the entire congregation voted on the budget every year. Or for that matter, one where the congregation even knew what money was collected and what it was used for. Many churches expect members to pay their tithe, but what is done with that money is none of the members business. If you do believe in democracy in your country, then why not in your church?
6. *The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all*
This is not a goal that I expect to see reached in my lifetime, but if we don't keep working toward it, we will never reach it.
7. *Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part*

It says in the Bible that God gave man and woman dominion over every living thing that moves on the earth, that we should be fruitful, multiply, replenish the earth and subdue it. But U U's believe that we are not the masters of life but part of the web of life, and we need to respect it all.

I was amazed that seven simple principles could so perfectly match what I had learned to be true over 50 years of living. When I attended my first General Assembly in Minneapolis, I had a revelation. We have people who are Atheists, Christians, Humanists, Wiccans, Jewish, Buddhists, Hindus, all a part of our congregations. You can believe as your own conscience dictates and all we ask is that you follow the seven principles and allow others to do the same. I realized that faith is not the religious beliefs you have, but the life you live and the life you allow others to live. I found faith in seven principles, and now my job is to live it to the best of my ability.

Camp deBenneville Pines, Angelus Oaks, CA

Sally Thomas, Camp Champ

Please pick up the latest issue of the newsletter of our great UU camp in the San Bernadino Mountains which is available in our Social Hall. Note the Elementary, Junior High, and Senior High week-long summer camps. Carpooling is usually available with campers from the Paradise Valley and Chandler UU churches. Adult music camps, art camp, women's camp, family camps and Thanksgiving camp are also available. For more information, contact me at sallythom@aol.com.

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

Lisa Lawrence, RE Director,
uucslisal@gmail.com

Charlie Mannino, Newsletter Editor,
uucsnewsletter@gmail.com

also add Cathy Mannino, Webmaster
www.uusurprizeaz.org

RE Report

Lisa Lawrence, DRE

Have a wonderful and safe summer!

Don't forget to stop in and visit now and again. The preschool room will be open to children aged 2 and up with supervised childcare all summer long. The children collected \$42.00 since January in their classroom offering and voted to donate the money back into the children's program. I plan to take this money and \$29 from the "RE Supplies Piggy Bank" and purchase some fun activities to keep the children occupied over the summer.

To get week by week information about RE events, classes and activities please visit our website at uusurprizeaz.org then click on the UU Children link under the Religious Education drop down menu.



Seeking 3 high school students to provide childcare and teach in our preschool room at the Unitarian Universalist Church Surprise. Hours are every other Sunday from 10:00 until 12:00 and occasional special events. Must be reliable, playful, have experience with children and good communication skills. Membership is not necessary. Please contact uucslisal@gmail.com for more details. Looking to start qualified individuals immediately.



Please have information for the Newsletter submitted by Noon on the 15th of each month to the Editor, Charlie Mannino at uucsnewsletter@gmail.com

The Monthly Book Report

MaryAnne Balzer

We have three more donated books to review in this month's column. Thank you to those who remember the UU Surprise Library for their donations of terrific reading material! These publications are outside our budget but are church appropriate and in new condition. Please enjoy one of these 'new to us' terrific reads soon!

"Create Your Own Religion; A How-To Book Without Instructions," by Daniele Bolelli, number 204BOL. This book was a star of the Library Review Journal: "This is one of the most refreshing, humorous, and radically honest books about practical and comparative religion this reviewer has ever come across. The author offers a bold, passionate invitation to question everything we've been taught, saying only that which remains relevant. Likely to be enjoyed by those who do not take themselves too seriously." A terrifically reviewed book that we are now fortunate to have in our UU Library!

"Invisible Man, Got the Whole World Watching," Subtitled 'A Young Black Man's Education', by Mychal Denzel Smith, number 305.2SMI. Another top book, Amazon says the author "chronicles his own personal and political education during recent tumultuous years, describing his efforts to come into his own in a world that denied his humanity. Smith unapologetically upends reigning assumptions about black masculinity, rewriting the script for black manhood so that depression and anxiety aren't considered taboo, and feminism and LGBTQ rights become part of the fight." This book is a very timely recent publication.

"How to be an Adult in Relationships," subtitled 'The Five Keys to Mindful Loving', by David Richo, number 158.2RIC. Another 4.5 star Amazon reviewed book: "Most people think of love as a feeling," says the author, "but love is not so much a feeling as a way of being present." In this book, Richo offers a fresh perspective on love and relationships—one that focuses not on finding an ideal mate, but on becoming a more loving and realistic person." The author presents his five simple concepts that form the basis for mature love. *Have a great day shared with a terrific UU Library read!*

Musings from the Loft!!

Debby Bullins, Music Director



Summer brings visits from family and friends as well as new adventures which bring us treasured memories. The choir is off for the summer but that does not mean service is without music.

This is a time to reflect on the events this year that have filled our lives at UUC Surprise. We are grateful for the musical experiences shared with us during worship.

I want to thank our accompanists, Connie Jahrmarkt, Maggi Mahan, Ruth Swank, Cathy Mannino, Julian Rush and Kent Trostel for their musical contribution each week that sets the tone for service. It's like going to a concert every Sunday!

Thanks goes out to you, the congregation, for embracing and joining in our monthly "Hymn Sing." We have managed to learn a few new songs, some that challenged us with language, visit some treasured, familiar hymns, and most importantly, have fun singing together! I wish you could stand where I stand and see the smiles on your faces as you "fearlessly" sing.

A huge thank you goes out to Bill Chartrand and Terry Froyd for showing some "piano love" with the hours spent cleaning and polishing our grand piano before they topped it off with a brand new protective cover.

Thank you to our wonderful and dedicated choir members who bring their best each week, growing as singers and making beautiful music together. The choir will be back in service on September 16. Please consider joining this merry band of musicians as they bring wonderful and meaningful anthems to each service.

Turn Up the Music and Sing !!

UU General Assembly

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

The June 24th service will be streamed in place of our regular Sunday morning service.

Sharon Beard, Denominational Affairs Chair

Summer BUUK Circle

Sally Thomas

BUUK Circle meets the SECOND Tuesday evening 6:30-8:30pm in the Choir Room. Those of us who will be here this summer have decided to continue our monthly meetings.

The book for Tuesday, June 12 is **Prairie Fires: The American Dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder** by Caroline Fraser. It won a 2017 Pulitzer Prize, National Book circle Critics Award and was one of NYT Book Review 10 Best Books of the Year. From the New York Times book review: Caroline Fraser's absorbing new biography of the author of "***Little House on the Prairie***" and other books about her childhood, "***Prairie Fires: The American Dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder,***" deserves recognition as an essential text for getting a grip on the dynamics and consequences of this vast literary enterprise. Charged by what Fraser calls a "unique ability to transform the raw material of the past into a work of art," Wilder won for herself the status of a pre-eminent figure in the shaping of the myth of the West - that seductive collection of icons, images and articles of faith installed in millions of minds and souls worldwide.

The book for Tuesday, July 10 is **Lincoln in the Pardo** by George Saunders. It won the Man Booker

Prize and was named one of the Ten Best Books of the Year by The Washington Post and USA Today. February 1862. The Civil War is less than one year old. The fighting has begun in earnest, and the nation has begun to realize it is in for a long, bloody struggle. Meanwhile, President Lincoln's beloved eleven-year-old son, Willie, lies upstairs in the White House, gravely ill. In a matter of days, despite predictions of a recovery, Willie dies and is laid to rest in a Georgetown cemetery. Newspapers report that a grief-stricken Lincoln returns, alone, to the crypt several times to hold his boy's body. From that seed of historical truth, George Saunders spins an unforgettable story of familial love and loss that breaks free of its realistic, historical framework into a supernatural realm both hilarious and terrifying. Willie Lincoln finds himself in a strange purgatory where ghosts mingle, gripe, commiserate, quarrel, and enact bizarre acts of penance. Within this transitional state—called, in the Tibetan tradition, the bardo—a monumental struggle erupts over young Willie's soul.

Please join us whether you've finished the book or haven't yet started it. Please bring fiction or non-fiction suggestions for August and September meetings. For more information, contact me at sallythom@aol.com.

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.

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



**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 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.



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**Visit our web site for
current information**
www.uusurpriseaz.org

**Unitarian
Universalist Church
of Surprise**

A Progressive, Inclusive Faith Community

WELCOME



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.

**Please update your records,
the new UU office email is
uucsaz2@gmail.com
thank you.**



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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 uucsaz2@gmail.com.

Sermon Titles For June 2018

6/3 - Amy St. Peter Bridge to Somewhere

Unitarian Universalists don't universally agree or disagree on the existence of an afterlife. Each day, moments take us further on our path. Each day, we build a bridge to somewhere. Where are we going and how do these moments contribute?

6/10 - Amy St. Peter..... Our Shared Humanity

We live in a world graced by beauty and marred by violence. As a spiritual community, how do we reconcile the violence and the beauty that persist and what are we called to do?

6/17 - Rev. Dr. Cathy Corbin Mannino Big Daddy Sound Bites

Big Daddy from "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" is definitely not my favorite character; however, Tennessee Williams wrote some powerful words for a flawed father to offer his struggling son.

6/24 - General Assembly Worship broadcast.....Streaming from Kansas City, MO.