

Unitarian Universalist Church Newsletter

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

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

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November 2018

40th Anniversary 1975 - 2015

From The Minister's Desk

Just as people continue to grow, so do trees. As I write this, I am looking out my bedroom window to the huge ficus tree in my back yard. I had it planted there when I moved into my house in December, 1990, almost 28 years ago. It was planted too close to my bedroom and too close to the side wall that separates my yard from my neighbor, Mary Lou's, yard. But in the first few years, I was able to keep it reasonably small by having it trimmed regularly.



But then it got out of hand. I have known for years that the ficus is too big for that spot. Initially, it provided welcome shade from the early morning sunlight into my bedroom before the sun climbed on its daily journey above my roof line. But the tree is now so tall that it overhangs and rests on the roof. Its branches are now so wide that the deep green leaves block out almost the entire bedroom view of the desert hill behind my house, which I enjoy seeing. The tree's roots now extend well into my adjacent, small, grass yard, a little farther every year. Those roots are now high enough that they have grown under and broken the concrete perimeter around the yard. The roots on the other side are threatening to break the wall between Mary Lou's yard and mine. The branches block the sun from more and more of the yard and grass will not grow in their shade. I have enjoyed the ficus and been grateful for it. But it has become a pain.

A couple of weeks ago, neighbor Mary Lou left a note on my front door. The note said that the ficus

is a beautiful tree, but it extends at least 12 feet into her yard and drops its leaves into her pool. She asked if I could have the tree trimmed away from her property. Wanting to be a good neighbor, I found an arborist to make a recommendation. He suggested just removing the tree altogether because trimming it back to a manageable size would be just as expensive and it would only keep growing. We agreed on a price for his crew to remove the ficus and grind down the stump and roots running into my yard.

Then I walked over to Mary Lou's house and rang the front door bell. Mary Lou, who is 87, opened her front door and invited me in. With the arborist's signed contract in my hand, I told Mary Lou that I was having the tree removed entirely. She was so thrilled that she threw her arms around my neck and gave me a big hug.

I, too, am actually looking forward to having the ficus tree removed; to recovering the view I have lost from my bedroom, to eliminating the roots that have become problematic, and to having grass grow again in the bare spot under the tree's canopy. It's a little like losing a companion. But I'm eager for a fresh start in my back yard.

It occurs to me that there are parallels between the ficus's life and people's lives. We are sometimes planted in places that don't suit us, or that we outgrow. When we are young, we are perhaps easier to control and to forgive. As I get older, I think it might be good for me to look for ways in which I may have become more trouble than I'm worth, even though I have done some good. Maybe I have intruded where I was not needed or wanted. Or maybe I'm just taking up too much room – so much room that others don't have a chance to grow.

Maybe there is still time to do some regular maintenance, trimming the parts of myself that have developed in harmful or annoying ways. Lopping off and thinning a few branches here and there might let others enjoy me more while I'm still here and miss me more, rather than be glad, when I'm gone. I'll see you in church.

Yours in our faith,



President's Letter to Congregation

Pat Lindgren, President

If you missed church on Sunday, October 7, you missed a very moving sermon by Reverend Terry. Luckily you can still listen to it on our website. In your browser go to <http://uusurpriseaz.org/>. At



the top of the page are several choices, click on Sermons. Find the sermon you want to hear and click on the little white arrow on the left. Sometimes it takes a day or more for new sermons to be uploaded to the website, so if the one you want is not there check

back later. While you are there checkout the many features of our website. It is kept up to date by Cathy Mannino. It is a major way that we attract guests and new members.

I was so happy when October arrived and the temperatures finally cooled down. When I was young and lived in Minnesota, I always looked forward to the end of April or beginning of May for the weather to warm up. Now it is so difficult for me when the 100+ degree temperatures just keep on coming in September. Going out shopping, going to church, going anywhere is comfortable and fun again. I also look forward to seeing so many of our friends who have been gone. I miss you all during the summer, but maybe I am just jealous because you are enjoying cooler weather. I will see you in church.

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

Save The Dates - 11/9, 10 & 11/18

Circle Suppers are back. The first ones will be held on November 9, 10 and 11. Circle suppers are small potluck dinners held in our member's homes. They are a great way to get to know each other better. Also, delis and similar options make it easy for the non-culinary among us to participate.

Sign up in the Social Hall. Please list your contact information and any dietary restrictions. Questions can be directed to Susie Cole (scole100@msn.com / 406.600.8857) or Nancy Flann (515giles@hotmail.com / 623.583.4626).

Racism and Civil Rights

Bonnie Saunders

How far have we progressed in decreasing racism and improving the civil rights of minorities? In November-early December, starting on 11/12 (we're skipping 11/5 because of the election the next day), Bonnie Saunders will facilitate a four-week adult education course called "Racism and Civil Rights." Sign up in the Social Hall for this course in October if possible. People who cannot attend all of the sessions are welcome to come when they can. If you have questions or if you can't get to church to sign up, contact Bonnie and she'll take care of it.

Schedule: the following four Monday's at 1:00 p.m.

11/12: Slavery and Its Impact on the U.S. (1619-1865)

11/19: Reconstruction (1865-1877)
Post-Reconstruction and Jim Crow (1877-1954)

11/26: The Civil Rights Movement and the Backlash (1954-2008)

12/3: The Status of Racism and Civil Rights (2008-Today) - What Can We Do?

Are you an activist for Reproductive Justice?

Are you interested in organizing further on this issue? Valley UU is forming a Reproductive Justice working group, and we are considering expanding to a UUJAZ Reproductive Justice Action Team. Email office@uujaz.org to join in this work and connect!

Nora McGinnis, Admin Assistant
Unitarian Universalist Justice Arizona Network

BUUK Circle

Julie Wambach

BUUK Circle meets 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.

November 13, 2018, 6:30-8:30 pm, 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.

December 11, 2018, 6:30-8:30 pm, Choir Room:
"The Day the World Came to Town: 9/11 in Gander Newfoundland," by Jim DeFede.

"When 38 jetliners bound for the United States were forced to land at Gander International Airport in Canada by the closing of U.S. airspace on September 11, the population of this small town on Newfoundland Island swelled from 10,300 to nearly 17,000. The citizens of Gander met the stranded passengers with an overwhelming display of friendship and goodwill." This nonfiction narrative inspired the Broadway musical "Come from Away."

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.

Join Us in Song!

Debby Bullins, Music Director



The holidays remind me that this time of year is for celebration and thanks. I am extremely thankful for our choir and accompanists who give of their time and talent, bringing beautiful music to our worship service each week.

I am also thankful for you, our congregation, who have given your smiles, friendship, praise and support which allows us to bring a variety of music to our church.

November begins with our Hymn Sing on November 4 at 10:10 am. Come early and settle in for a morning of laughter, singing and community. Clapping and dancing are highly encouraged.

The choir is preparing some wonderful music as their gift to the congregation during their Lessons and Carols, all music, service on December 9. Mark your calendars and arrive early for this soulful event. It should be a service to remember.

December 16 brings a collaborative gift when the Music Department and the RE Department join forces on Joyce Poley's "Spirit of the Christmas Tree". We invite you to join our family choir where all you need is a love of singing. The music is fun and easy to sing. This is a perfect event to give the UUC Surprise choir a try. If you are interested, please see me for more information.

May your life be as a song...

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*.

The Monthly Book Report

MaryAnne Balzer

Your UU Surprise Library is up and running for the winter/spring season! Please stop by before or after service on Sundays. I'll be glad to help with your questions and reading interests. As a reminder, the newsletter columns for the past year or so are posted on the wall just inside the Library Social Hall side door. Please be sure to refer to the posts as a reminder of some of the great reading in your Library! Below are reviews of several more of the new books soon to be offered on the Library shelves:

“Start Where You Are,” subtitled ‘A Journey for Self-Exploration’, by Meera Lee Patel, number 158.1MEE. The book “is an interactive journal designed to help readers nurture their creativity, mindfulness, and self-motivation. It helps readers navigate the confusion and chaos of daily life with a simple reminder: that by taking the time to know ourselves and what our dreams are, we can appreciate the world around us and achieve our dreams,” Amazon. This is a terrific 4.5 star rated book. Oprah calls it ‘a must read’. This is a workbook, so please; use your own notebook to complete the exercises. Please, DO NOT write in this book.

“War No More,” subtitled ‘Three Centuries of American Antiwar and Peace Writing’, by Lawrence Rosenwald, editor, number 816.ROS. This is an “unprecedented tribute to a great American literary tradition. War has been a reality of the American experience from the founding of the nation and in every generation there have been dedicated and passionate visionaries who have responded to this reality with vital calls for peace...Featuring over 150 writers, it is a bible for activists, a go-to resource for scholars and students, and an inspiring and fascinating story for everyone,” Amazon, 4.5 stars. A terrific donated book.

“The Radium Girls,” subtitled ‘The Dark Story of America’s Shining Women’, by Kate Moore, number 363.1MOO. The story of women who worked in the watch dial industry and their exposure to Radium. Factories ignored all claims of the gruesome side effects, and the women’s cries of corruption. As the Radium’s fatal poison took hold, the ‘shining girls’ found themselves in one of the biggest scandals of the early 20th century, and in a groundbreaking battle for workers’ rights. Excerpted from the

Amazon 4.5 star review. A donated book; a fast paced incredible must read.

Have a terrific UU day shared with one of these great new books!



Shared Thanksgiving Dinner, Thursday, November 22, 2018

Bonnie and Ken Saunders will host the Shared Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner on Thursday, November 22, 2018, beginning with Appetizers at 2:00 p.m. and Dinner at 3:00 p.m. This year Bonnie and Ken will be able to cook only one turkey, with stuffing and gravy. We encourage members and friends to come and bring guests to this church community event. Bring your choice from the following kinds of potluck dishes: main dishes, appetizers, vegetable dishes, other side dishes, breads, cranberry sauces, salads, desserts, or your special favorite dish. Sign up in the Social Hall and tell us what kind of potluck dish you will bring.

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.

The new UU office email is
uucsaz2@gmail.com

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



Visit our web site for current information

www.uusurpriseaz.org

Unitarian Universalist Church of Surprise

A Progressive, Inclusive Faith Community

WELCOME



RE Report

Lisa Lawrence, DRE

Can you believe that it's time to start planning for the holidays?!? Halloween, Thanksgiving, Winter Solstice, Hanukah, Christmas, New Year's...



My calendar tells me that children's RE will begin rehearsals for this year's holiday play on Sunday, November 18th. We start practice so early because the play will be presented in service on Sunday December 16th. We will be performing a traditional retelling of the birth of Christ called, "The Spirit of

the Christmas Tree", by Joyce Poley. The script has many opportunities for both children and adults to participate in the fun. Please let me know if you are interested in helping with the play in any capacity: acting; set designer; costumes; etc. And families, if your children are interested in being in the play, please let me know right away. uusclisal@gmail.com

On Friday, November 23rd, our quest to embrace diversity and learn about world religions

continues as we tag-along on the 2018 Ten Commandment Hike Sponsored by the Interfaith Religious Recognition Committee and the Grand Canyon Council, Boy Scouts of America. This is the 22nd year that Scouting youth, families and friends, and other groups with their leaders and friends will continue to explore the diversity of religions in our community. The group will hike as a single entity and at each stop will be greeted by a presenter who will briefly discuss a Commandment, their religion and their house of worship.

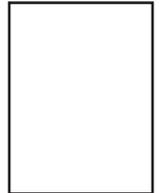
Registration for this event begins at 7:30 a.m. and the Hike begins promptly at 8:00 a.m. and runs until 4 p.m. The Hike fee is \$5.00 per person, which includes an event patch. I will be arranging a carpool for participants as the Hike's starting location is at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 6001 S Lakeshore Dr, Tempe AZ 85283. It is located 1/4 mile east of South Rural Rd and 1/4 mile north of East Guadalupe Rd in Tempe. Please R.S.V.P. to uusclisal@gmail.com by November 16th at the latest if you are interested in this unique opportunity. More information can be found here: https://scoutingevent.com/attachment/BSA010/document_15375539170_2390.pdf

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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 uucsa2@gmail.com.*

Sermon Titles For November 2018

The Theme for his month is "Gratitude"

11/4 - Rev. Terry Sims.....A Filling Up and A Flowing Over

Human life is a vessel. It will be filled with many experiences and emotions. When gratitude is experienced and felt, it not only fills us up, it overflows into how we engage with others and the remainder of our lives.

11/11 - Rev. Terry Sims Gratitude in Bleak Times

I think all of us have cause for concern about the state of our nation and our world. But gratitude for what has been and for what remains can rouse us to act to preserve, to restore, and to participate fully in the divine, ongoing process of creation. So concern is not all there is. There is hope, too.

11/18 - Rev. Terry Sims Gratitude in All Seasons

Does our sense of gratitude increase or decrease depending on the circumstances of our lives? Does adversity or age crowd out our ability to give thanks? As time passes, my sense is that we cannot wait to be grateful until life is what we want it to be.

11/25 - Amy St. Peter Ghosting

In October, ghosts lurk and scare. In December, the ghosts of Christmas past, present, and future warn those devoid of holiday cheer. In November, Thanksgiving offers a bridge from fear to accepting gifts. On this Sunday, we will explore our own ghosts and what they mean for our spiritual community.