



# Horizons Journal

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix

May 2014



## Living a Life of Dignity

Reverend Susan Frederick-Gray

As I begin to write this column on what it means to live a life of dignity, I have just put aside the newspaper, which featured the news of the tragic shootings at two Jewish communities outside of Kansas City. Confronted by this news, I am reminded again how vital our first principle is “to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of all people.”

The Brazilian philosopher Paulo Freire wrote “Dehumanization, which marks not only those whose humanity has been stolen, but also (though in a different way) those who have stolen it, is a distortion of the vocation of becoming more fully human.”

Teachings, language, laws and policies that undermine the worth and dignity of others is a part

of dehumanization—taking away the humanity of another, of creating an “otherness” to a group of people.

It is fair to ask whether those who perpetuate cruelty and violence have worth and dignity. Our answer must be—if we are to encourage in ourselves as well as others the fullest development of our humanity—that all people, no matter their wrongs, must be treated with respect and dignity. It doesn’t mean there are not consequences for wrongdoing, but to write someone off as unworthy of respect comes not only to undermine their humanity, but our own. This isn’t always the easiest lesson to learn or follow. In the face of being disrespected, mistreated, we often want to respond in kind, but this ultimately undermines not just the dignity of another, but of our own.

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## The Indignity of Isms

Reverend Linda Lawrence

I sometimes took the train from Harvard, IL, to downtown Chicago to get to seminary. One day, as I was swept from the train station into the human flow of traffic, the stream of people parted to avoid running into a man selling *Streetwise*, a newspaper that many homeless people sell to make a little money. The tall, black man selling at the intersection that day stood like a statue, arm raised, clutching a handful of papers, tears running down his face. The tears caught my attention—as did the headline: *Homeless Man Beaten to Death*. Like all the other people, I moved wordlessly past the vendor despite his obvious distress. Was my lack of response rooted in racism? Classism? Or did something else urge me to pass silently on by? How could we all ignore that man in his obvious grief?

Standing in line at the grocery store another day, I felt a tap on my shoulder. As I turned, a small voice said, “Am I in the right line?” An elderly woman gestured to the items in her cart and asked if she had too many things to be in the express checkout line. I smiled and said, “Oh, I think you’ll be alright.” We exchanged a few simple pleasantries before I reached the cashier. As I prepared to leave, the same lady tapped my shoulder again. When I turned, she smiled shyly and said, “Thank you for talking to me.”

That simple phrase went straight to my heart. At that moment I realized how often older people, perhaps older women especially, feel invisible. Is it ageism? Is it sexism? Or something else? How is it that we fail to acknowledge the lonely people we encounter in everyday situations with a smile, a nod, a greeting or simple conversation?

*Continued page 6*



## Building a New Way – 2014 Stewardship Campaign

We began the Stewardship Campaign with the song “Building a New Way” and now to end the Campaign let’s reflect on the last few words of that song: “Peace and freedom is our cry. Without these, this world will die. Peace and freedom is our cry.” Although the Campaign is now officially over, we continue to seek peace and freedom. The Stewardship Campaign is just a vehicle by which the congregation members raise money in order to perform its mission:

Welcoming all in building religious  
community, called to share journeys,  
grow in spirit, advance justice.

The song nicely captures the mission themes and reminds us that since our mission is ongoing we need a strong financial infrastructure for the health

and vitality of our staff and ministries.

At Celebration Sunday on April 20<sup>th</sup>, we expressed our joy and thanks to everyone for their financial contributions that support our mission. I am proud and pleased to report that as of April 20<sup>th</sup>, we received pledges from 211 current members and reached \$370,000 in total pledges, representing 82% of this year’s pledge target of \$450,000. This is an accomplishment deserving of a great big Thank You.

If you have not yet turned in a pledge form, please do so. Every gift counts, every amount matters, it takes every one of us to make our ministry vibrant and strong. As we continue to collect pledge forms, the staff is preparing next year’s fiscal budget, which will be presented for approval at the Congregation Meeting on Sunday, June 1, 2014. □



## Sounds for the Soul

Benjie Messer

Music Director

I have a few announcements to make this month. First, we have an All-Music Service on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. This service will be an hour of music as worship, a chance to meditate on UU values through singing together and appreciating performances by many of the incredible musicians at UUCP, including our choir, pianists, the a cappella group One Breath, and more. The music is both religious and humanist, exploring themes of compassion, being of service, appreciating beauty, and this month’s worship theme, treating all people with dignity. Our music program at UUCP is so vibrant that the hardest part of planning this service was keeping it to a single hour.

This service is also the spring performance for our family choir, a group in which children, youth and their family members sing together! If your children like to sing, please consider joining this group, led by choir director Connie Jahrmarkt.

The family choir rehearsals for this service will be held on:

Wednesday, May 7, 6:00-6:45pm

Saturday, May 10, 12:00-12:45pm

Wednesday, May 14, 6:00-6:45pm

Saturday, May 17, 12:00-12:45pm.

Families that can only make some of the rehearsals are still invited to take part. Please contact Connie for more information, at [thebandeuropa@cox.net](mailto:thebandeuropa@cox.net).

In other news, if you enjoy the sermons at UUCP, you might be pleased to know that six weeks ago, our sound volunteers began making audio recordings of our sermons. Each month, we are posting those recordings to the UUCP page on the SoundCloud website, <https://soundcloud.com/uucp>. From that page, you should now be able to easily listen to UUCP sermons at your leisure through your computer, smartphone, or similar devices. □



## A Sense of Human Purpose

Anne Byrne

Director, Children's Ministries

Feeling a sense of internal dignity can often be illusive for us humans. Our powerful brains are capable of amazing processes, but unfortunately, this can include bouts of self-doubt and thinking we are less than worthy or without dignity. This self-doubt often operates alongside a feeling of drifting without purpose.

A strong sense of purpose can contribute mightily to interpersonal dignity. For many, this sense of purpose comes from religious beliefs and the notion of being a child of God, gaining guidance on how to live a worthy life by following the commandments and or other holy lessons, and the promise of the ultimate reward—life after death.

While our Unitarian Universalist faith provides support for a sense of purpose, it does not offer the concrete doctrine of other religions. We are each called to weave together ideas and values to support sense of purpose that in turn supports a personal sense of dignity. For me, the seven principles are powerful value statements that inform how I hope to live my life, but my sense of purpose derives from one principle in particular, and that is the last one: "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part."

Over the years I have developed a keen appreciation for what it means to be a human in the interdependent web and the more I embrace and appreciate the joys, benefits, and responsibilities of the human job description, the more confidence I feel in a deep sense of purpose and my fundamental dignity.

Being human is cool. There are so many things we can do and experience that are unique to the human species on earth. While unique, many of our abilities are related to those of other species.

Let's consider music for a moment. Birds make beautiful music, and it has been suggested that Mozart rewrote a passage from the last movement of his Piano Concerto in G Major to match the song of his starling. Apparently, birds also listen and respond to music. But think for a moment about all the ways humans make and interact with music. We

sing, we dance, we listen, we play instruments, we have musical tastes, we make instruments of many kinds, we have varied musical talents, and we have rhythm and groove. It can make us happy, sad, make us want to move and inspire us beyond words.

We get to experience all of these things about music because we are human. But it is not just music we experience and create—we have intellect and emotions, we can create and destroy, we name and describe things, we can reflect and appreciate. We can experience wonder and awe in the natural world and we can create things and experiences of wonder and awe for ourselves and others.

We humans have a very special role and purpose in the universe, blessed with abilities and senses unique to our species. It is our job to use and experience these abilities each and every day. Appreciate beauty. Experience awe. Share your love. Use your intellect. Make music and dance. Disagree and compromise. We have a profound purpose in this universe; embrace it and the feeling of worth that is interpersonal dignity. □

### — DIGNITY —

Nobody can make you feel inferior without your consent.  
— Eleanor Roosevelt

*If we should be so lucky as to touch the lives of many, so be it. But if our lot is no more than the setting of a table, or the tending of a garden, or showing a child a path in a wood, our lives are no less worthy.*  
— Kent Nerburn

The rapprochement of peoples is only possible when differences of culture and outlook are respected and appreciated rather than feared and condemned, when the common bond of human dignity is recognized as the essential bond for a peaceful world.  
— J. William Fulbright



## Unitarian Universalist Foundation of Phoenix

### Introduction to End of Life Planning

What should you know before you go? Wills, estate plans, future health care directives, memorial service planning, are all on the agenda for the End of Life Planning workshop being offered by the UU Foundation of Phoenix on Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30-8:00pm in the Sanctuary. UUCP members, Robert Back, Esq., and Rev. Linda Lawrence will be sharing some basic information on these topics and providing additional resources for further exploration. Please RSVP to Heidi by calling the office or emailing [heidiparmenter@phoenixuu.org](mailto:heidiparmenter@phoenixuu.org).

### UUCP Chalice Keepers

In last month's *Horizons* we announced the creation of the Unitarian Universalist legacy giving society. At the April UU Foundation of Phoenix meeting, the UUFP Board selected "UUCP Chalice Keepers" as the name of our new legacy society. The society is composed of people who have the foresight and wisdom to remember the congregation in their estate plans. This page includes a list of Founding Members of the UUCP Chalice Keepers society. If you would like to be considered a Founding Member of the society please let the UUFP Board know of your plans to include UUCP in your estate plan. Members who join the society within the first year of its establishment will be considered Founding Members.

#### UUCP Chalice Keepers

Ellie Anderla  
Diana Ashley  
Janice Brunson  
Smoot & Charlotte Carl-Mitchell  
Gary Ezzell  
Tish Gauntt  
Susan & Richard Goldsmith  
Margaret Herrick  
Richard & Connie Jahrmarkt  
Jan Kaplan & Helen Walker  
George & Shirley Karas  
Lyman & Dot Manser  
Bill Mee  
Ellie & Bob Murphy  
Douglas & Shirley Odegaard  
William Parker & Betty Sayler  
Heidi Parmenter  
Richard Plattner & Susan Morris  
Lucienne Rusconi  
Marshall & Julie Smart  
Margaret Stallworthy  
Arnold Thaw  
Libby Walker  
Elaine Warner  
Sandy & Don Weir  
Kathryn (Kay) Welch  
Harriet Williams  
Janet Wise

For more information on the UUFP please visit us at [www.phoenixuu.org](http://www.phoenixuu.org), email the UUFP Board at [uufp@phoenixuu.org](mailto:uufp@phoenixuu.org) or call Richard Plattner at 602-743-6342. □

### Summer Community Night Potlucks

First Thursdays, May – September  
6:00 PM, Johnson Room



May 1: Talent Show  
June 5: Games Night  
July 3: Barbeque and Ice Cream Social  
August 7: Diversity Dinner  
September 4: Welcome Back Potluck

*Continued from “Living...” Rev. Susan, page 1*

One of the most important lessons of our first principle is a reminder not just of the inherent worth of others, but also of our own. Developing a strong internal sense of one's own dignity and worth is crucial to withstanding the attacks that people or society can throw at us for who we are, how we live or what we believe; but it is also essential for helping us to respond to these situations in ways that affirm our own dignity and that of others, even those who wish to deny us ours.

Ruth Braunstein's story of her uncle, featured later in this issue, is an incredible testimony to this truth. It reminds us how dignity is something we must discover, cultivate and hold onto within ourselves. Despite so many cruelties and indignities, Ruth's uncle maintained his own sense of worth and dignity, and treated others with dignity and respect, even when they showed him none.

Our first principle is one of the hardest to live by. It calls us to honor our own worth, to treat ourselves with worth and dignity, but also to respond to others, even our enemies, even those we disagree with—with honesty, yes, but also, always, with respect for their worth and dignity. To do so is the only way to honor our vocation of becoming fully human.

In the face of wrong that we cannot undo—acts that tear apart the bonds that bind each to all—we must continue to develop in ourselves and in our children and in our corners of the world an understanding that the only way to move our world forward is by responding to injustice with justice, to respond to disrespect with dignity, to commit ever more resolutely to the worth and dignity of all people and the need for its expression and enactment in the world. □

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## May Worship Theme:

# Dignity

***May begins our summer schedule of one service at 10:30 AM***

May 4: *Religious Education Sunday—Pass It On!*

Service Leaders: Anne Byrne and Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

A sense of worth or dignity is often enhanced by teaching and learning. This Religious Education service will highlight how our teachers and students “Pass It On!” to one another. Our elementary-aged students will share what they've learned this year, and we will express appreciation to our volunteer teachers and advisors.

May 11: *Why Are You You?*

Service Leaders: UUCP's Youth Ministry

This service is an opportunity for our young religious Unitarian Universalists to share their wisdom and their questions about identity.

May 18: *All-Music Sunday: There Is Sweet Music Here*

Service Leaders: Benjie Messer and Connie Jahrmarkt

Our annual all-music Sunday is a service in music, and a celebration of UUCP's music program. Through singing and listening, we connect with each other, find inspiration to combat injustices, and meditate on beauty, suffering, and the sacred.

May 25: *Reconciling Dignity with the Reality of War: A Memorial Day Reflection*

Service Leader: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

One definition of dignity is the quality of being worthy of honor or respect. On Memorial Day, we honor and pay respect to our military service personnel, especially those who have given their lives in service to this country. But how do we understand the inherent worth and dignity of all people in the face of the perpetuation of war and violence, cruelty, even evil that persists among humanity?



## Unicare News

### In remembrance:

- Irma Murphy's memorial service was held at UUCP March 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Dave Cunningham's father, Elijah Cunningham, passed away in March.
- Marie Mitchell's mother passed away.

### Serious illness/hospitalization:

- Mike Peterson was hospitalized March 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Jane Grenard was hospitalized April 12<sup>th</sup> due to low blood pressure.

### Milestones:

- Ray Manker celebrated his 89<sup>th</sup> birthday April 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Jenna Daum and Derek Sanchez were married on March 18<sup>th</sup> in Sedona.
- Duke Plattner and Susan Morris celebrated their 31 years of marriage in March.

### Other news:

- Sylvia Sharma and her husband returned from Uganda in March.
- Joyce Short is happy she will be a grandmother again!

For more information on significant events in the life of UUCP members/friends, sign up to be on our Unicare email list at [unicare@phoenixuu.org](mailto:unicare@phoenixuu.org).

Ceyshe' Napa, Unicare Coordinator



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*Continued from "Indignity..." Rev. Linda, page 1*

In my work and family life, I've spent time with people who deviate from the norm of physical, mental, and/or emotional-behavioral abilities. Lack of experience with people who are "differently abled" certainly explains the fear that clutches us when we are unsure of the right thing to do or say. Unfortunately, I've witnessed (and probably done) some of the stereotypical things that can rob a person of dignity, e.g. speaking very loudly to a person who is blind; looking at the sign language interpreter rather than at the deaf person I'm really trying to talk to; telling a child not to stare or ask questions of someone in a wheelchair—inadvertently shaming both the child and the person with a disability. Does our ableism rob people of the dignity they deserve?

To begin to learn more about the personal isms in your life, think about times you've felt inferior or marginalized. What assumptions were made in those situations? How did you feel? Was there a way you were able to maintain a personal sense of dignity or self-respect? Do your experiences of being ignored or devalued enable you to be more sensitive to others in similar situations? Do such experiences help you act in

ways that affirm the dignity and worth of others?

Another experiment to help us consider dignity is this: Make a list of all of your various identities, e.g. racial and/or ethnic identity, gender identity, sexual orientation, education level, income level, job title, hobbies and interests, etc. Now change one major identifier in your list and imagine what your life might be like if you were, e.g. Latino instead of Black, male instead of female, or gay instead of straight.

We are most often unaware of the isms that are part of our everyday mindset. We look at the world through lenses that we seldom notice, let alone change. While most of us like to think of ourselves as being open, unprejudiced, and non-judgmental, the truth is this: it's hard work to take off the ism lenses that obscure our perceptions and affect our behaviors. Learning more about the isms we carry with us allows us to loosen the grip of unrecognized biases and act in ways that honor the inherent worth and dignity of all the people we encounter.

Let us "Dare to Dream" and be open to the learning opportunities available to us in our congregation and in our wider community. □



## Nisei: A Bridge Between Cultures

Ruth Braunstein

Small Group Ministry Facilitator

**M**y maternal uncle, John Fujio Aiso, grew up in Los Angeles in the 1920s and '30s at a time when anti-Japanese prejudice was very high. Examples of article headlines in newspapers such as the *San Francisco Chronicle* were "Japanese a Menace to American Women," "Brown Men Artisans Steal Brains of Whites," and "Brown Men an Evil in the Public Schools."

Uncle John, as a Nisei (second generation, American-born child of immigrants) was expected and constantly reminded by my grandparents to display by his conduct the model Japanese-American citizen. He was to act as a "bridge" between American society and Japanese culture.

*... in 1923, he (Aiso) made front-page news in the Los Angeles press at the age of twelve while attending LeConte Junior High School in Hollywood. His classmates elected him student body president, but their angry parents protested, saying, "no child of mine is going to be under a Jap." Aiso was not allowed to take office and student government was suspended until he graduated ...*

*At Hollywood High School, Aiso again faced rejection because of his heritage. He tried to enroll in a Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) program but the Army instructor refused his application saying, "The American Army doesn't need any Japs." So Aiso joined the debate team instead. In no time he became the captain but racism would continue to stifle his success.*

*In 1926, Hollywood High School held a speech contest. The winner would travel to Washington, D.C. to compete in a national competition, sponsored by several major newspapers. Aiso won first place and in June, the faculty selected him to be the graduating class valedictorian. Afraid that parents and students would protest a Japanese-American student*

*dominating two high honors, the principal of Hollywood High School forced Aiso to choose between the contest and the valedictory address. Amid the flurry of newspaper articles in the Los Angeles Times, The Washington Post and The Washington Star, as well as the Japanese-American press, Aiso reluctantly forfeited competing in the national contest.*

(Hirohata, J. & Hirohata, PT., ed., *Nisei Voices*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., Worzalla, 2004, 7-9)

After graduating from Hollywood High School, Uncle John went on to Brown University, was class valedictorian and graduated *cum laude*. In 1934, as the first Nisei from the mainland USA, he graduated from Harvard Law School, clerked at a Wall Street firm that sent him to represent them in Tokyo. He studied Japanese law at Chuo University and became resident legal counsel for the British-American Tobacco Company in Mukden, Manchuria.

He returned to the U.S. and in 1941 was drafted as a private. From an initial assignment as a truck mechanic, he was recruited to be head instructor at the Japanese language school at the Presidio in San Francisco because of his Japanese language ability. The school opened on November 1<sup>st</sup>, five weeks before the attack on Pearl Harbor, and taught Japanese reading and writing, military vocabulary, interrogation and translation.

He was then promoted to be the Director of Academic Training in the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) Language School. The first class of 60 Nisei graduated in May 1942 and were sent to become the "eyes and ears" of the Allied Forces on Guadalcanal and the Aleutian islands.

The school was subsequently moved to Camp Savage in Minnesota because Executive order 9066 (the order to evacuate) prevented Japanese-American soldiers and instructors from staying in California. It then came under the auspices of the War Department. Information about the school's work was not declassified until 1973.

*Continued page 11*

## UUCP Leadership Nominations 2014

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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#### Jim Sorgatz

Jim has been a member of UUCP since 2010, and appreciates its inclusiveness, mission of service, and music, among many other things. Jim has been involved in Interweave, New Day Center, Welcoming Ministry, Covenant Groups, and has served for the past two years on the Board of Trustees. Outside of UUCP, Jim works as an executive for the Home Builders' Association of Central Arizona.

The Nominating Committee is nominating Jim for a second two-year term on the Board because of his experience on the current board, his experience as a leader in a nonprofit organization, his non-anxious presence and calm thoughtfulness.



#### Jim Allen

Jim Allen is a Professor and Associate Chair of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at ASU. He is a highly respected authority on Biophysical Chemistry, with a research interest in Bio-inspired solar fuels. In addition to research and teaching, Jim has been administrator for multimillion-dollar budgets, has dealt with accounting, budget projections, and crises due to last-minute budget cuts by state legislators.

Jim has been a UUCP member since 2007. He is in his fifth year as chair of the Finance committee, where he has gained familiarity with the current church financial administration and a strong understanding of the role of oversight. Just as importantly, Jim's work at UUCP gives him the opportunity each Sunday to put work matters aside and focus on personal issues, such as kindness and wisdom, and enjoy the UUCP community. He looks forward to serving on the Board, following in the footsteps of his daughter, Celeste, who is a graduate of UUCP's YRUU program and was youth representative to the Board two years ago.

The Nominating Committee is nominating Jim for a two-year term as Board Treasurer because of his strong administrative experience running a prestigious organization in a large research university, and because of his track record as Finance chair.



#### Bill Snowden

Bill has been a UUCP member since 1991, and has been a core, veteran member of the choir for many years. He has also led workshops and classes for Religious Education, and is currently a member of the Sanctuary committee. For the past two years, Bill has served cheerfully on the Board of Trustees.

The Nominating Committee is nominating Bill for a second two-year term because of his experience as Board Secretary, his connection to the tradition of the church's fellowship, and for his intuitive understanding of the character of UUs.





## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FOUNDATION

### Ellie Murphy

Ellie Murphy's leadership positions in UUCP over past decades include, but are not limited to: serving as UUCP's administrator (or co-administrator) from 1976 to 1991; Board President; a founding Small Group Ministry facilitator; and, currently, the UU Foundation. Truly, Ellie's leadership is extensive and priceless, and we are fortunate that she wishes to serve another term.



Ellie says, "I've felt for a long time that the Foundation has been almost totally neglected. Many UUCP members were not even aware of its existence! Thanks to Marg Stallworthy's longtime financial leadership we've always managed our funds responsibly, but almost nothing was being done to increase them. My original interest in joining the UUFP board was to encourage gifts in memory or honor of loved ones and to make sure that donors always received a thank-you note, tax information, and a copy of their special page in the Memory Book. With the election of several new members to the UUFP board, a more aggressive approach has been taken. I'd like to continue to be part of all the exciting new ideas for increasing legacy gifts that will insure UUCP's financial security and keep our chalice burning well into the future."

The Nominating Committee is nominating Ellie to another three-year term on the UUF Board because of her devotion to the long-term health of the Foundation and her faithful efforts to preserve and honor the memory of our beloved members who have passed on.

### Pauline Peverly

Pauline Peverly has been a member of UUCP since 1995, and a UU for much longer in Illinois. She has B.S. and M.Ed. degrees in Business, and a Ph.D. in Adult and Continuing Education. She has been involved with Fresh Start and is currently with Experience Matters.



Job Club at UUCP was started with Pauline's help 10 years ago, and she is currently a UUCP Office Volunteer. She enjoys Circle Dinners, Outdoor Group hikes, and has participated on various committees at UUCP over the years.

Pauline is nominated to a two-year term on the UUF Board, to replace Gary Ezzell. Her nomination is based on her warm enthusiasm, experience with the UUCP administration, and interconnection with the UUCP community.

### Diana Ashley

Diana was raised at UUCP as her mother, Pat Shannon, was a very active member of the congregation for many years. Diana left Phoenix for a few years to raise her family. Upon her return, she has been actively involved at UUCP in roles such as co-chair of a very successful stewardship and capital campaign, Board Treasurer and Board Member at Large, as well as a member of the Finance Committee, Choir and Chair of the Music Committee.



From 1987 through 2011, Diana's career focused on nonprofit and health care finance, so she

brings a “wealth” of experience to the Foundation Board as well. Diana really became interested in the Foundation Board when her mother passed away and Diana realized just how important UUCP had been to her mom and how important it is to make sure the future of UUCP is financially strong. She believes the best path to ensuring that the UUCP

legacy continues is through the efforts of the UU Foundation.

Diana is being nominated to a three-year term on the UU Foundation Board because of her strong background in the financial world, her recent experience as Treasurer, and her outstanding leadership in building UUCP stewardship.

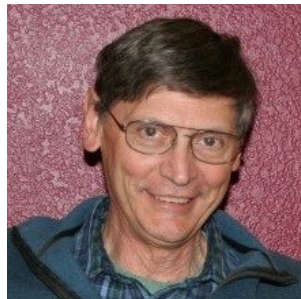
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## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

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### Gary Ezzell

Gary joined UUCP after moving to Phoenix in 1999, and has served the congregation in a number of capacities such as adult Religious Education, Board President, Nominating Committee, capital campaigns, and Worship Associate. Professionally, Gary is a medical physicist working in radiation therapy at Mayo Clinic.

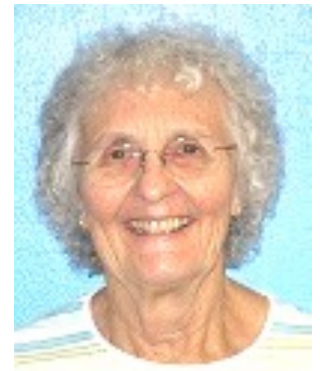


According to Gary, “Our congregation has grown in numbers and dimensions in the past few years, and our Nominating Committee has the challenge of both identifying and supporting the members who volunteer their time and talents to lead our community. I have similar challenges and tasks in my professional life, and so I hope this overlap will prove useful in both domains.”

Gary is nominated to a two-year term on the Nominating Committee because of his tremendous experience and accomplishments at the UUCP, and because of his visionary understanding of the lay leadership.

### Ellie Anderla

Ellie arrived in the valley in 1969 and became a member of UUCP. She has been active ever since, in numerous roles including Religious Education, Welcoming Congregation, Committee on Ministry, Minister’s Advisory, Board of Trustees, Membership Committee and a Ministerial Search Committee. She served as President of the Board of Trustees and has been a Sunday School teacher.



Currently, Ellie serves on the Unicare Committee and is both a Covenant Group facilitator and a facilitator coordinator. She enjoys being an occasional usher and greeter for Sunday services and singing in the choir. Ellie reports that Unitarian Universalism and UUCP are very important parts of her life and that this is her spiritual home and community.

Ellie is nominated to a two-year term on the Nominating Committee. Her intimate understanding of the history and people of the UUCP and her breadth of interactions with the congregation make her an excellent candidate for the Nominating Committee.

We'd like to hear from you! Take the UUCP Annual Survey:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/UUCP2014>

Any man or institution that  
tries to rob me of my dignity  
will lose.

— Nelson Mandela

## Charlotte Carl-Mitchell



Charlotte has been a UUCP member since 2005, after moving here from Austin, TX, where she was highly involved with the Episcopal Diocese. A trained librarian, Charlotte is highly interested in history and genealogy, has been UUCP's historian, archivist, and music librarian for many years. She is a longtime choir member, and a member and former chair of the Publicity Committee. Lately, Charlotte has been a care partner for Lucienne Rusconi, a longtime member of UUCP who is now in a nursing home. Charlotte is married to Smoot Carl-Mitchell, former UUCP Treasurer.

Charlotte says, "I consider UUCP to be my second family and want to help it grow and prosper. Choosing the right people to serve in positions of responsibility in the congregation is a vitally important part of making that happen."

Charlotte is nominated to a two-year term on the Nominating Committee because of her enthusiastic participation in community events, her dedication to building the structures that bond our community together, and because of her familiarity with the history of the congregation. □

*Continued from "Nisei..." page 10*

After the Second World War ended, Uncle John was transferred in 1946 to General MacArthur's Headquarters in Tokyo. He investigated activities connected with the Political Purge decreed by the Potsdam Declaration. In the late 1940s, after returning to the U.S., he retired with the rank of colonel, making him the highest-ranking Japanese-American officer at that time.

In 1953 he became the first Japanese-American as well as first Asian-American in the continental U.S. to be appointed as a Municipal Court judge. In 1957 he was appointed to the Superior Court, received the legion of Merit in 1965 from Lyndon Johnson, and in 1968 was appointed to the California Court of Appeals.

In 1972 he retired from the bench and worked in private practice as special counsel.

In 1987, four years after his last retirement, he was mugged during a gas station robbery and never regained consciousness.

*Navigating through adolescence was hard enough, but Japanese Americans experienced the added burden of trying to feel proud of their heritage in a world that despised it ... (Ibid, 13)*

*Society caused us to feel ashamed of something that should have made us feel proud. Instead of directing anger at the society that excluded and diminished us, such was the climate of the times and so low our self-esteem that many of us Nisei tried to reject our own Japaneseness and the Japanese way of our parents.*

*(Uchida, Y., Desert Exile: The Uprooting of a Japanese-American Family (Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 1982), 42.)*

Thanks to his innate temperament, personal sense of self, and, perhaps, adhering closely to his parents' teachings, Uncle John was able to overcome the racism he faced and accomplish great things within his lifetime. □



# **Fundraising Soiree**

**at Gerry Kato and Bennett MacKinney's**

**Saturday, May 10, 4:00-8:00pm**

Enjoy an enchanting and intimate afternoon house concert with music by Schubert, wine, appetizers and tour of a unique contemporary home near the Mountain Preserve (40<sup>th</sup> Street & Shea).

*Featuring pianists Lynne Haeseler and Gerry Kato, clarinetist Carl Chivers  
and soprano Jayne Casselman.*

Tickets are \$60 per person or \$100 per couple, 35 tickets available; all money goes towards supporting UUCP ministries and programs. Register at [www.phoenixuu.org](http://www.phoenixuu.org) or 602-840-8400.

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