



Horizons Journal

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix

June 2018



Blessings on the Journey

Reverend Margret A. O'Neill

As I prepared my annual report, a retrospective of my first year of transitional ministry with you here in the Valley of the Sun, I found myself reflecting on the June theme and on the many blessings of this past year. This is a strong congregation with a wise and open-minded membership, and a staff of skilled and committed professionals. For me, this has been an interesting year of discovery, getting to know you, learning the unique ways of this congregation (as they say, when you have seen one UU congregation, you have seen *one* UU congregation!). This year we have taken on the challenging work of discovering together how to make our way through this transitional time between

settled ministries.

My call is to a ministry of transformation. I believe the primary blessing of the interim time is the opportunity it provides for the congregation to discover its positive core, for opening up to something new, and preparing for whatever may lie beyond the horizon—the future we know is there, but which we cannot see with our eyes, only with our hopes and dreams.

The desert theme for the month of June is the arroyo—a creek, a flow of water, or a dry bed where water will flow when it rains. An arroyo holds the possibility of blessing, since it receives and channels the gift of water in a dry land, serving to direct and contain the flow, the blessing of rain. An arroyo also

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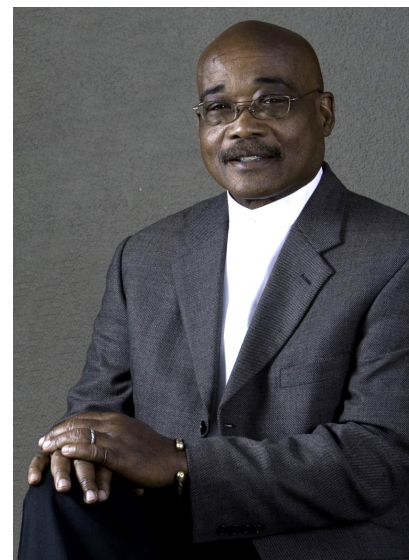
Introducing New Director for Congregational Life

Anthony N. Johnson, whose spiritual name is Mtuaswa, has been selected by the UUCP Hiring Team from among several very well qualified applicants, to take the position of Director for Congregational Life beginning in August 2018. Anthony will become Assistant Minister once he is in fellowship with the UUA.

Anthony brings to ministry a rich and varied background. Mississippi-born and Chicago-bred, he is a former United States Army Officer and served as a Military Instructor and part of the team to implement the Instruction System Design model at the U.S. Army General Staff College. He has written and produced film and video programming and was recognized as one of the

country's leading producers of 3-D animation. Anthony has also held the position of Director of Production and Operations for Black Entertainment Television (BET), overseeing the production of all cable programming.

Anthony completed his ministerial internship at the Sedona Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Sedona, AZ. At Starr King School for the Ministry he was the Hilda Mason and the Tony and Laura Bushman Scholar, and Vice-President of his 2018 graduating class. As a teacher and facilitator, he has created a study of men's ministry within Unitarian Universalism, "Embracing A Unitarian Universalist Future Masculine." He



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A Year of “Yeses”

Vince Waldron

President, Board of Trustees

The congregation year winds down in June, just as the sun starts to burn like a welding torch. For me, sweltering June is a time to lay low, conserve energy, and survey my feelings about life. And, as it turns out, I am feeling *grateful* this particular June. Why? Well, the slowing summer pace of congregational life is part of the reason. This has been a busy year for the Board of Trustees.

But more than that, I am feeling gratitude for the many UUCP members who said “yes” during this year of transition—a time when it would have been easier to hunker down, wait for a new minister to be called, size-up the newcomer, and *then* offer to help. As a new president of the Board of Trustees, I needed *lots* of help this year, and I am grateful that so many folks said “yes” when asked. It has not been a year of waiting around. It has been a year full of yesses.

The list of yes-men and yes-women is so long and I can hardly even begin to name them. But let me list a few individuals and a larger collection of “yes-groups.” I begin with *Rev. Margret*, who said bravely “yes” when offered what must be the most challenging transitional ministry in the nation. Can you imagine replacing the person elected to be the President of the UUA? Margret invested her heart and soul in the success of our UUCP community. I have observed many leaders in my time, but never a harder working one. Under Margret’s conscientious leadership, we took a clear-eyed inventory of our strengths and identified areas for improvement. Thanks to her, we will be truly ready when it comes time to call our minister.

Our core staff said “yes” even as they were buffeted by changing circumstances and asked to welcome a new and different leader. This year, we continued to enjoy wonderful music, inventive programming for families, a surge of new members, and innovations in our office operations. Thank you, *Katie, Benjie, Janine, Heidi, Geoff*.

I want to thank four “graduating” members of the Board of Trustees for saying yes. *Ceyshe’ Napa*

and *Karin Quinn* agreed to serve as officers this year. The Board couldn’t have functioned without their wise and congenial leadership. *Jim Allen* is stepping away after years of dedicated board service and financial wisdom. And you may have heard that long-time board member *Rajeev Arora* has moved to Florida. His calm wisdom and enthusiasm will be sorely missed. *Mary Dawes* and *Sarah Moore* said “yes” to leadership positions on the 2018-2019 board. Along with *Katie Quinn* and *Tony Banegas*, they served this year with integrity, insight, kindness, and a wonderful sense of humor. And a special thanks goes to former President of the Board of Trustees, *Glen Lockwood*.

Beyond these yes-persons, I want to thank so many others. Let’s start with all of those who volunteered this year as ushers, greeters, choir members, community night chefs and helpers, Ucare responders, classroom assistants, and in so many other roles. And there was that impressive group of folks who revived Cabaret. Wow! And what about the 40 or so members who turned out to help with the stewardship campaign? That was astounding! And the congregation leaders who agreed to serve on the ministerial search committee, the transition team, and the governance task force. And those who will take positions on the Board of Trustees next year. And those who lead various committees and form our leadership council.

Well, I could go on (and on), but you will be glad to see that I am stopping now. My point is that during a year of great change, a year which could have knocked us way off stride, one thing held steady and true—the generous, loving, “say-yes” spirit that forms the core of this community.

Thank you for an amazing year of yesses. □

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holds the possibility of danger, since we all too well know that a sudden rush of water can sweep away those in its path, if they are not aware and prepared.

Even so, the unfolding future in a congregation may hold both promise and risk, as the energy of a flow can overwhelm us if we are not prepared to ride the crest. The work of the transitional time,

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therefore, is to be aware of our blessings, to mobilize our resources, and to prepare for new energy by making sure the structures are sound, that we are well equipped to ride a new wave when it arrives.

As we move into the summer, we are halfway through our transitional journey together, at the midpoint in this time of discovery, this time of preparing the resilient congregation for the future that is yet to unfold. We are well along in the journey, as the Ministerial Search Committee is elected and has begun their work, and the programs for the coming year are taking shape. This is a rich and rewarding time to be part of a faith community, and I invite you to deepen your engagement as we enjoy the flow of blessings that we create and enjoy in this time together. It is good to be with you in this time—see you at UUCP! □

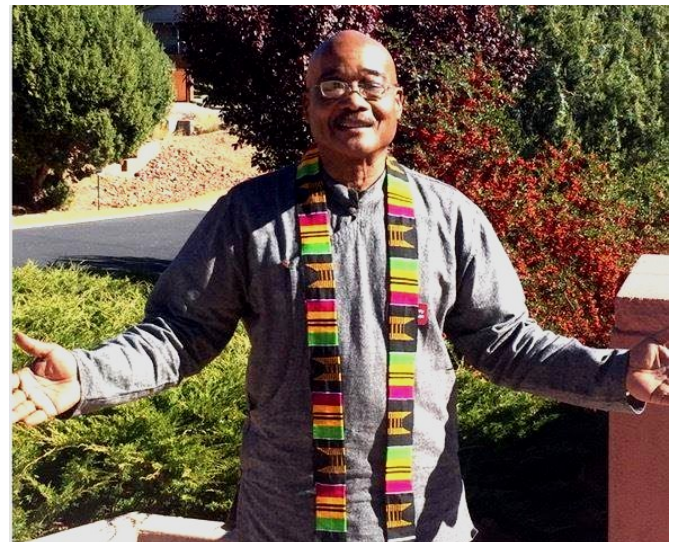
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has taught "Introduction to African Spirituality," exploring the modern story of religion and spirituality from an Indigenous African perspective. He has also created and led workshops on congregational leadership and on multicultural skills and awareness.

Mtuaswa is a Spiritual Counselor and a Tai-Chi Practitioner, and is currently a writer/producer overseeing the development of the feature film *Initiation*, based upon the autobiography *Of Water and The Spirit* by Malidoma Somé, a story that author Alice Walker so aptly calls, "the shimmering, missing piece of the story of the earth."

Anthony holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Radio-TV-Film, a Master of Arts Degree in Human Learning and Development, and a Master of Divinity from Starr King School for the Ministry. He expects to go before the UUA Ministerial Fellowship Committee within the next year, and once he is in Fellowship his position at UUCP will be reclassified to Assistant Minister for Congregational Life. You can learn more about Anthony at his website, www.sessionsofdiscovery.com.

Many thanks to the amazing Assistant Minister Hiring Team (Ellie Anderla, Tony Banegas, Judith Breuer, Gary Ezzell, Vicki Myers, Savannah Sanders and Rev. Margret) for their strong and collaborative work to bring Anthony's experience, talent and commitment to join the UUCP team! □





Dear Friends,

I'm writing today to let you know that after 12 and a half years of serving this community as your Administrator, I will be leaving my position on May 31, 2018 due to health reasons. I was recently diagnosed with Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome which explains a lot of why I have been struggling the past couple years with exhaustion, pain and cognitive impairments. Once I realized that these symptoms were not going to magically disappear I decided that I can no longer fulfill the duties of my job here at UUCP and indeed, the stress of not being able to do my job as I once had, was making me feel worse. I have been here for a long time and I feel that even without health issues demanding changes for me, it is time to hand the calculator over to someone new with fresh energy and passion for this beloved community. It is time for me to focus on my health and finding a new work/life balance that allows me to be the best that I can be. And hopefully, a new career that allows me to explore more of my creative side, which is my new dream.

I love you all so much and saying goodbye is going to be very, very difficult. For over a decade you all have been my extended family, my mentors, my inspiration, my reminder that the world is a beautiful place full of beautiful people despite what the news tells us. I look forward to coming back to UUCP when the time is right and rediscovering the love and commitment as a fellow member.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for giving me these past 12 years to serve our faith with you. It will always be one of the most treasured periods of my life.

Sincerely,
Heidi



Outdoor Group Hibernation



The Outdoor Group is a recreational and social group that meets the 2nd and 4th Saturdays during the cool months, plus New Year's Day, to share an outdoor experience, primarily hiking. We welcome and encourage everyone interested in having some active fun outdoors to join us. No commitment is necessary. Come when you can, no excuses necessary when you can't. For more information, contact outdoorgroup@phoenixuu.org.

The Outdoor Group has gone into hibernation for the summer. Thank you all for making this last season very fun and adventuresome. We hiked some new trails, made some new friends, found some fun lunch spots and generally had a good time doing it.

If you were not hiking with us but would like to get in on the fun and excitement, please e-mail

outdoorgroup@phoenixuu.org. You will be added to the e-mail list and receive the notifications about the events we have planned as the time approaches. Your e-mail will not be shared or used for any other purpose than information about the hiking group.

Our next event will be when we get back together in the fall with the Flagstaff campout October 13. Todd and Stephanie Haughton will be leading a hike on Saturday, October 13, when hopefully the aspen will be in their full glory! Ed and Bonnie will be hosting the campout at Sunset Crater National Monument on Saturday night. This is a great opportunity to share our summer stories, roast our hotdogs, and gaze at stars that never show up over Phoenix while warming our toes around the campfire. Please mark the date on your calendar now because this is a very fun event not to be missed!

Our second hike will be October 27, led by Phil Slater and Dan Hunn at Horton Creek near Payson, Arizona. This is going to be another beautiful hike you won't want to miss.

Have a wonderful summer, everyone! Find some shade, enjoy life, and stay active! See you in October! □

— BLESSING —

Humor is mankind's greatest blessing. — Mark Twain

Every day I feel is a blessing from God. And I consider it a new beginning. Yeah, everything is beautiful. — Prince

The unthankful heart discovers no mercies; but the thankful heart will find, in every hour, some heavenly blessings. — Henry Ward Beecher

You have to participate relentlessly in the manifestation of your own blessings. — Elizabeth Gilbert



Where Our Story Ends... and Begins

Gabby Gareau

YRUU Member

So here is where our story ends...for today. It will continue to grow, reaching farther than our wildest dreams as it already has.

Today we tell you a story, instead of a sermon, to show you what we have done to change society. I hope that through our adventure, we have inspired people to be angry, engaged, informed, and aware.

Our community is so important to us, and without it, we wouldn't be where we are today. So thank you. Thank you for inspiring us, for making us want to be a part of our futures, for making us gentle and angry, for making us strong, and for helping us when we need it. But most of all, thank you for letting us be us.

Every week we come into YRUU and we think of how safe and at home we feel. Nothing in this world will be able to describe the space we have with

each other, and the strong bond we have created. This year marks an important part of History and will be the stories we tell our grandkids when they ask what we did when we were kids and wanted to "go out" with friends.

May we forever be the ones that changed lives. Our own, and others. May we forever be the "kids" who held decision makers to their word. And may we forever be the ones who honored those before us and pushed forward together to fight for what we believed in.

Gabby Gareau is a 9th grader at Shadow Mountain High School. She is also a member of our youth group at UUCP. Her concluding sentiment at the YRUU service on May 20th serve as a reminder of the power of faith development, beloved community, and a multi-generational approach to children's ministry. □

I was pirouette and flourish,
I was filigree and flame.
How could I count my blessings
when I didn't know their names?

Rita Dove, *On the Bus with Rosa Parks*



Green Sanctuary News

Potluck and Planning Session: On Saturday, June 9, 11:00-3:00, we will have a potluck lunch and goal-setting event at the home of Laurel Hardin. We will review our original charter and outline our goals for the coming year. So if you have ideas about movies, talks, events, classes or advocacy that you'd like us to undertake, come enjoy good food and meet like-minded people. Look for more details closer to the event.

Unintended Consequences of The Wall:

On Sunday, June 24, after the service, Green Sanctuary will host a potluck lunch and Justice Lunch talk. Dan Millis of the Sierra Club Borderlands group will talk about Protecting Nature and Human Rights in the Borderlands. Bush's, and now Trump's, quixotic quest to build a wall to halt illegal immigration and smuggling has cost many lives,

destroyed wildlife habitat, stymied animal migration and caused tremendous flooding. However, the expensive, divisive wall leaves the underlying causes of migration and crime unchanged.

Come learn about Dan's experiences as an advocate for the environment and human rights on the border. He will share ways that we can help. More details will be provided closer to the date of the event.

LED Bulbs & Low-Flow Shower Heads:

As a service to the congregation, we will continue selling LED Bulbs at the Green Sanctuary table (near the Library). And, starting this month, we are adding relatively inexpensive, effective, low-flow shower heads. These help save on electricity and water. All sales will be cash and carry. □

You are a Member of UUFP & Didn't Even Know It!

If you are reading this article, you are probably already a member of the Unitarian Universalist Foundation of Phoenix, also known as the "UUFP" or simply "the Foundation." Why? Because the By Laws or Articles of Incorporation of the UU Congregation of Phoenix says that every member of the congregation is automatically a member of the UUFP. That means that on the first Thursday night of most months, you are welcome to attend the UUFP Board meeting, which generally starts at 6:45 PM.

What is the Foundation? It is a separate legal entity, and its Board is composed of six members whose responsibility is long-range financial planning to support the Congregation. UUFP has its own funds and investments which it saves, loans or gives periodically to the Congregation.

As of the end of 2017, UUFP owned assets

totaling a little over \$1,100,000 in cash and investments, and also owned assets consisting of a few parcels of land. Of that amount, the Board had pledged to the current Capital Campaign the amount of \$275,000, of which \$125,000 has already been forwarded to the Capital Campaign. Each year, the amount of assets at year's end is examined, and in the following calendar year 5% of that amount is given to the Congregation to augment members' and friends' annual pledges.

Over the decades, members and friends of the Congregation have made lifetime gifts and several very substantial gifts at death of land or money. More donations from members' and friends' trusts and estates are very welcome and help to keep the Congregation healthy and to plan for the long-term future of UU-ism in the Valley of the Sun. □



**UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI | 2018**

JUNE 20-24—REGISTER AT <https://www.uua.org/ga>

Grounded in a deep belief that we are all prophets, Unitarian Universalists ask, “How can we faithfully meet the demands of our time?” The call to witness and act for justice in our society and in the world is clear. So, too, is the call to examine our structures and practices, dismantling and transforming those which fail to recognize the full humanity of all people and to honor the interdependent web of life. Join us in Kansas City as we dive deeply into questions of mission for our Unitarian Universalist Association, for our congregations and communities, and for each of us as individuals. Together, we’ll ask:

Who and how are we called to be at this time, individually and collectively?

How are we called to act and to live?

How does our Unitarian Universalist legacy strengthen us in living out our mission? In what ways does our legacy present challenges and impediments to answering our call?

The call of our faith has a place for each of us. Join us in Kansas City to build courageous, collective leadership with tools, skills and connections.

**Want to participate in GA from home or anywhere?
Programs for Off-Site Registrants**

Off-site registrants are able to:

- listen to the mini assemblies on proposed bylaw amendments and proposed Congregational Study Action Issues. Delegates will be able to propose amendments;
- participate in an online chat room to build community and share ideas with other off-site registrants;
- watch video of additional workshops within one day of each event.

You'll also be able to watch all events that happen in the General Session Hall: worships, business meetings, and the Ware Lecture. Delegates will be able to participate in debates and vote in business sessions.

**To register or for more information:
<https://www.uua.org/ga/registration/off-site>**



Unicare News

Please lift up in your thoughts those in our community who share their transitions, sorrows, celebrations and wishes—that they may find strength in your love and friendship. For more information, or to get involved, contact Vicki Myers, Unicare Coordinator, at unicare@phoenixuu.org.

Remembrances:

Mike Sheffer remembers his mother, Lee Sheffer, who peacefully passed away at the age of 95.

Healing Wishes & Transitions:

We wish a full recovery to Sue Kennedy and Sally Boyd, who are both recovering from surgeries in early May to repair broken hips.

After a nasty fall from a ladder, Kathy Baughman is recovering from a broken lower leg that will take surgery and many weeks to heal. Thinking of you!

We send healing thoughts to Susan Goldsmith, who was recovering well from brain surgery in May.

Arnold Thaw appreciates the continued visits and cards from his UUCP community.

Jen Hempel, volunteer RE teacher, continues to receive treatment for breast cancer. A meal train is set up through August to provide some relief for her family: <https://mealtrain.com/68n3gd>.

Milestones & Celebrations:

Wedding Bliss: Congratulations to Paul Playford and Barbara DeWitt (now also a Playford) who were married on April 21st.

Sue and Christina Kinsman-Barnes celebrate the addition of 11-year-old Chris to their family.

Don and Sandy Weir are overjoyed at the marriage of their daughter Pam to Leanne Davis on April 21st.

Interested in providing an occasional meal, sending a card, or providing other support to someone in our congregation in need (at a time of sorrow or joy)? Contact Vicki at unicare@phoenixuu.org for more information. We welcome those with caring hearts and able hands who wish to put them to good use with our team of compassionate volunteers. □

Memorial Garden

*friends whose ashes were interred
in our Memorial Garden
this month in past years
are still remembered*

Audrey Hope Engelen
Shannon Lea Garvin
Daniel Raymond McNeal
Jennifer Goyette Raines
Dr. John Charles Mitchell



For more information about the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix, visit us at:

<http://www.phoenixuu.org/>

June Worship Theme: **Blessing / Arroyo**

*Services bring our community together at 10:30 AM**

June 3: A Spiritual Community for Our Time

Service Leader: Rev. Margret A. O'Neill

What are the discoveries, the complexities, the challenges of living in time? We are shaped by the times in which we live, even as we shape them in our living, and if we are paying attention, we soon learn there are no easy answers. May our journey be a blessing.

June 10: Sharing the Journey

Service Leader: Rev. Margret A. O'Neill

Where have we come from, what are we becoming, where are we going? In the past months we have journeyed through the first phase of this transitional time, honoring the past, looking forward to adventures ahead. How do we stay open to possibility as the future unfolds before us?

June 17: "When someone told me I lived in a fantasyland, I almost fell off my unicorn."

Service Leader: Earle Canfield

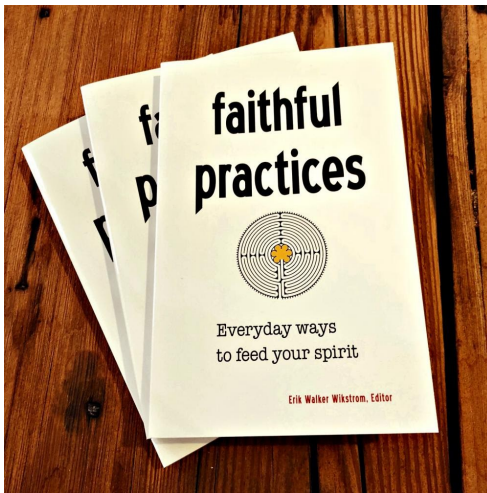
Participating joyfully in the sorrows of the world, Earle Canfield, founder of the NGO "ANSWER Nepal" explores the concept of happiness. Now going into his eighth decade, he realized that in following his bliss, his life from academics to medicine to educating children in Nepal was simply a quest to explore what makes him happy.

June 24: Counting Blessings

Service Leader: Susan Goldsmith

When, as a small child, I visited my grandmother, she would come to the bedroom to tuck me in and would always remind me to count my blessings before I dropped off to sleep. Then snap, out went the light, she was gone, and I was left to wonder what that meant. I'm still wondering.

**American Sign Language interpreter available
on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month*



Skinner House Books is pleased to announce *Faithful Practices: Everyday Ways to Feed Your Spirit*, edited by Erik Walker Wikstrom. This collection of reflections about spiritual practices in everyday life aims to provide models for those seeking a practice of their own.

Faithful Practices is available to order at inSpirit: The UU Book and Gift Shop: <https://www.uuabookstore.org/>.



The Church of the Larger Fellowship, with more than 850 members who are incarcerated, created the Worthy Now Network to connect more Unitarian Universalists to people who are incarcerated or people who are coming out of prison. Visit WorthyNowNetwork.org to share what you are doing to support prison ministry in your community, and connect with others doing similar work.

The HubMap

Do you know a bridging high school senior or recent youth group alum seeking UU community after a move?

The HubMap of UU Young Adult & Campus Ministries can help them find a community in their new location: <https://bit.ly/2GIEWau>.





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UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF PHOENIX

THEOLOGICALLY DIVERSE
RADICALLY INCLUSIVE
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