



# Horizons Journal

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix  
October 2018



## Heritage Holds a Promise

Reverend Margret A. O'Neill

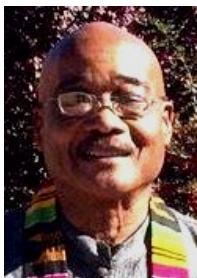
Growing up in downstate New York, daughter of an Irishman himself born in the Bronx, I cultivated a strong consciousness of my responsibility as a person of Irish descent. The heritage of my ancestry include a warrior heritage from ancient tribal clans, persistence in the long struggle against colonial British overlords, and understanding grounded in the experience of exploitive servitude and race-based discrimination against the Irish in the 19<sup>th</sup> century United States. My people were just one more wave of immigrants who arrived here fleeing unbearable hardship, hoping for a better life on these shores. That heritage continues to inform my passion for justice, my support of the

migrant, and perhaps a certain fierceness I sometimes bring to my work. Of course, I also get to wear my *Kiss me, I'm Irish!* button on that special day in March!

And I am proudly the daughter of a Missouri farm girl, descended as well from much earlier waves of European immigration. From my mother I inherited a love of the land, an earth-centered spirituality, a woman's intuitive ways of knowing—gifts that balance and complement my warrior heritage from the Emerald Isle. I know that my very being is deeply shaped by my heritage as well as my lived experience.

And so when I meet a person, when I enter a community or a congregation, I instinctively seek

*Continued on page 5*



## It is the Work that Remains

Anthony Johnson

Director for Congregational Life

Heritage may be defined as something transmitted by or acquired from an ancestor or predecessor. It may be a genetic quality or trait that is or may be inherited by tradition or by birthright. As I reflect upon my heritage, which I am so proud of, I recall the night of June 27, 1990 in Washington, D.C. It was a typical hot and humid D.C. summer night, the usual, with one huge exception. Tonight, I was one of some 19,000 people crowded into the D.C. convention center to see one of my heroes. I pumped my fist in the air, I danced the toi-toi in the aisles with many others, mesmerized by the man who embodied the hopes of millions. It was Nelson Mandela's first visit, as a just-released political prisoner, to the United States. I was working as Director of Production and Operations for Black Entertainment Television at the

time. Recalling Mandela's arrival, two days earlier, on a now defunct Trump Airlines plane, brings an ironic smile to my face. My heritage includes my father telling me stories of his having to get off the sidewalk if a white person was also walking on the sidewalk and to never look a white man in the eye. He told me stories of my grandfather, who worked in a warehouse and could hold the entire inventory in his head and how he trained all the young white managers who would become his bosses.

When I ponder my heritage, I feel an ancestral call for restorative justice for the African-American community. Restorative Justice or—as Dr. Homer Jack, Director of the Division of Social Responsibility of the Unitarian Universalist Association, referred to the issue in 1969—"Reparations Investments." This call for restorative justice is woven into the very fabric of our country. It is not un-American to call for

*Continued on page 7*

## Ministerial Search Committee Update

### **I**n Our Circle Again

*Here we are  
in our circle again.  
A circle of vision  
and reflection,  
A forum for deciding  
and empowering.*



*Here we are  
at the base of another bridge,  
another space spanning  
the shores of today and tomorrow.  
Beckoning us to cross the chasm,  
one day at a time.*

*Here we are  
gathered again at the cusp  
of the future,  
at the boundary  
that holds community together.*

*We are here,  
in a circle of love and trust,  
brought to this moment  
by a series of choices and promises...  
by hope and gratitude...  
by our own shadows, faced  
and befriended.*

*With a servant's heart,  
with a leader's listening,  
with a parent's love, truer  
than all our inner trembling,  
let us model the health we seek for all  
and lean into community.*

*Somewhere out there,  
all we dream is possible.  
Somewhere in here,  
we are sowing the seeds.*

—Shari Woodbury

By the time this is published, we will have spent time reflecting on our views, spiritual and religious preferences and the qualities we, as individuals, would like to see in a minister. We've finished a major step in our search process, our Congregational Survey. Thank you for answering the call and showing your love for UUCP! Now it's time to bring those thoughts, reflections, joys

and concerns into the circle of community.

**Please join us for a very special service on Sunday, October 7.** We will gather in small groups to answer questions together: about our congregation, what makes a ministry successful, and where we want to go together. We'll share and listen. This service is a beautiful opportunity for us to get to know each other more deeply—to lean into community and recognize that the needs and preferences of others are no less important than our own. (And there will be cake at Coffee Hour!) We will also hold meetings at the Beatitudes and Friendship Village retirement communities for the convenience of those members. The Ministerial Search Committee will be sharing the results from the survey and group discussions during both services on November 18.

We are doing important work together to “sow the seeds,” as our gardens grow best when the ground is tended and ready. Part of that work will be, as Shari Woodbury writes, facing and befriending our shadows. What beliefs and biases do we hold that might prevent us from recognizing a minister who would best fit *us*—all of our beloved community? Let's learn together. Mark your calendars for the Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop on Saturday, December 1, 9:00a-12:00 pm, followed by Special Service on Sunday, December 2 with Rev. Keith Kron, UUA Transitions Director. Show your love and be heard!

### Important Dates—Mark Your Calendars:

- 10/7: Special Service: Group Discussions on Ministry
- 11/18: Voices Service: Results of Survey & Group Discussions
- 12/1: Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop
- 12/2: Special Service: Rev. Keith Kron, UUA Transitions Director □



## Hello, UUCP!

Lora Gustafson

Congregational Administrator

I've been in my position as Congregational Administrator for only a few weeks, so I'd love to take this opportunity to introduce myself, especially for those of you who don't know me. First, I think of myself as a researcher and a doer. I wear many hats, and like cultivating new and diverse skills. I enjoy challenges and learning new things. And most importantly: I love people and helping make their lives better.

My background is quite varied. I have two degrees from the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising—one in Merchandise Marketing and one in International Manufacturing and Product Development—culminating with a Bachelor's in Operations Management from Arizona State University. I'm also a yoga teacher and practitioner, practicing since 1998 and certified to teach in 2006. I owned a yoga studio in Missoula, MT, from 2007-2013, where my business and management skills were equally important to my nurturing of people and wellness. Outside of work, my life includes a loving partner, two wonderful daughters (attendees of the EEC preschool, and a huge motivation to work for social justice), and two fuzzy dogs.

I had never heard of Unitarian Universalism until I started working for social change. Like so many others, I first came to UUCP after the 2016 elections. Upon my arrival, I was recruited by the Religious Education program to teach the Sunday "Move" class (for kids who like to express their spirituality kinetically!). I also teach Radically Inclusive Yoga in the congregation every week (each and every one of you is invited!).

I love so many of the values in our community, especially the OWL program, for which I coordinated the 7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade training this year. Every time I go to any of the small groups, I meet amazing people who inspire me to do more.

I look forward to working at UUCP, a congregation that has been a new home to me, with an amazing staff of coworkers that I love. I'm excited

to get to know you all better as I serve this beloved community. Please stop by the office to introduce yourself and tell me what you love about this community.



## Community Night Dinners

Join us in building a "Spiritual Community for our Time" every Thursday at 6:00 pm in the Johnson Room through November 15.

Each week features the culinary talents of the members of our congregation: two entrees (one vegetarian), as well as sides, salad and bread. A donation of \$6 per adult, \$3 per child under ten, or \$12 per family, covers the cost of the meal (those experiencing financial hardship can receive a payment waiver). In the spirit of Radical Inclusion, there are vegan and gluten free options (check the menu each week in Compass), and food served is labeled for the top nine common allergens. If you'd like to join, but have additional dietary restrictions or preferences, you are welcome to bring your own meal.

Following the meal, Thursday evenings are an opportunity to deepen our knowledge of what it means to be Theologically Diverse, Radically Inclusive, and Justice Centered. A diverse offering of adult faith development classes, small groups, justice experiences, and guest lectures help us to live into the congregation's vision. (More information on pages 8-11.) Children build community, too, in Chalice Kids, free childcare between 6:30-8:30 pm.

If you have questions about Community Night or would like to contribute as a Sous Chef (sides, salad, or bread), contact our coordinator at [communitynight@phoenixuu.org](mailto:communitynight@phoenixuu.org). □



## A Year of Together Hymns

Benjie Messer

Music Director

What songs and music do you remember from your childhood? How did you learn them, and how did you participate in them?

How much choice did you have in the matter? What role did music have in your home, or in other parts of your life (school, religious congregations, friendships, etc.)? This is your musical heritage.

Now don't stop with childhood, and continue following your musical life to the present moment. That's part of your musical heritage too. And what music of your ancestors wasn't passed on? What has been lost, that you never got to hear? This loss is also part of our heritage. Our hymnals are titled "Singing the Living Tradition" and "Singing the Journey"—reflecting how heritage and culture never stop changing and developing.

Three years ago, when Director of Children's Ministries Katie Resendiz and I began choosing hymns to fit our monthly worship themes, they were only for our teachers to include in our children's classes. But as usual, thinking about one often-ignored group (in this case, children) helped us think better about everyone. These "Together Hymns," as we've started to call them, now serve as monthly hymns for the whole congregation. We sing them in service more than almost any others, so they're learned deeply by adults and children, and this year they'll be included in our packets of resources for small groups too. So these monthly hymns have, in a way, become our congregation's own curated musical heritage, that both our children and adults will hum and associate with their time at UUCP.

With Rev. Margret's help, Katie and I have chosen the songs listed below for this year. Let's enjoy them, use them, and engage with them, in meditation and action, reverently and creatively, with laughter and with tears. They draw from the many sources of our faith, both within and outside of Unitarian Universalism. We chose some favorite songs from the past, to keep their wisdom alive in our community, and we chose contemporary songs

that can move our community forward. If anything made the choice difficult, it was that there's so much incredible music in the world! So, without further ado... this year's Together Hymns are listed below. I've included hymn numbers if the song is included in our hymnals, and some hyperlinks (underlined) to recordings for those of you utilizing the online version of *Horizons*.

For September's theme of Community: #402 "[From You I Receive](#)" by Joseph and Nathan Segal

For October's theme of Heritage: "[Wanting Memories](#)" by Ysaye Barnwell

For November's theme of Democracy: #169 "[We Shall Overcome](#)" (African-American spiritual and civil rights anthem)

For December's theme of Peace: #388 "[Dona Nobis Pacem](#)" (traditional Latin)

For January's theme of Leadership: "[The Tide is Rising](#)" by Rabbi Shoshana Friedman

For February's theme of Inclusion: #1004 "[Busca el Amor](#)" by Salvador Cardenal Barquero

For March's theme of Connections: "[Ain't No Mountain High Enough](#)" by Nick Ashford and Valerie Simpson

For April's theme of Future: "[Never Turning Back](#)" by Pat Humphries

For May's theme of Celebration: #214 "[Shabbat Shalom](#)" (traditional Hebrew)

For June's theme of Harmony: #197 "There Are Numerous Strings" by Rabindranath Tagore

For July's theme of Strength: "[Que No Caiga la Fe](#)" by



Grupo Caleb, Eseario Sosa

For August's theme of New Beginnings: #1037 "We Begin Again in Love"

I'll teach these during our services, so don't worry if you don't know them! Thank you all, both children and adults, for being part of the musical heritage that we create and pass on at UUCP. □

We do not have to be  
ashamed of what we are.  
As sentient beings we have  
wonderful backgrounds.  
These backgrounds may not  
be particularly enlightened  
or peaceful or intelligent.  
Nevertheless, we have soil  
good enough to cultivate;  
we can plant anything in it.

— Chögyam Trungpa

*Continued from "Heritage..." Rev. Margret, page 1*

out the signs and signals of heritage and experience. How did they begin, from what identities and traditions did they emerge? What ancestral and personal experiences have shaped them, where have they learned to use their gifts, how have they managed to survive and thrive in the face of challenge? We all bring gifts; we all carry scars. That is our human reality.

This Phoenix UU congregation is rich in its gifts of heritage, and shaped by its scars as well. Planted in the desert by a hardy band of truth-seekers in hopeful years after World War II, the young First Unitarian Church of Phoenix soon found its very existence under threat as our nation was engulfed by fear-based hatred in the anti-communist purge of the McCarthy era. Faced with rejection that left them without a home, congregation members made the courageous choice to invest and to risk, to sustain their work and their voice where the presence of our faith was so needed in that time. It is from this heritage of courage and commitment to this liberal faith, holding both the gifts and the scars of experience, that this congregation has sustained, working with hearts and hands and voices to bring your values and our vision to the world. Every person who enters these doors, no matter how briefly, in some way contributes to the unfolding here, adding their presence to the shape and texture of this vibrant human community.

As UUA President Susan Frederick-Gray says, this is no time for a casual faith. Our heritage and our identity continue calling us into the promise to create a more just world, in each action small and large, as individuals and in community. May we live into that call, as all are welcome share this journey, growing in spirit and advancing justice. See you at UUCP! □



## What We're For

Vince Waldron

Co-President, Board of Trustees

He died that sweltering night under the dark desert sky, even as a team of human aid volunteers searched frantically for him, closing in on the location reported from his fading cell phone. Sixty-six years of age, a father and beloved abuelito, employed in Arizona for more than 30 years—he had been picked up by ICE just weeks before and summarily deported to a country to which he no longer belonged. Determined to rejoin his family, left alone on the other side of militarized border wall, this aging family man had little choice but to take his chances on a 50-mile journey through some of the most hostile desert in North America. The volunteers who answered the call from his distraught family, one of many worried families calling the crisis line every single week, also took risks that night. Unbelievably, one of those risks was arrest by the border patrol, for the act of rendering human aid to an undocumented person.

I heard the tragic news the next morning. It shook me deeply, as it did the 70 or so UUs gathered in a church hall in the tiny desert town of Ajo, Arizona. UU clergy and laypersons from across the country were in Ajo to put our UU principles into action that weekend, acting in partnership with inspiring and intrepid volunteers of *No More Deaths* and affiliated groups, such as *Ajo Good Samaritans*. *No More Deaths'* mission is to end human suffering at the border by leaving water, food, socks, and blankets in the most remote and deadly corners of the desert. Trained volunteers also provide emergency first aid. But in recent months, nine of the group's volunteers have been arrested, part of the U.S. government's harsh and cynical effort to criminalize immigrants and those who render assistance to them.

Our objectives that weekend were two. First, acting in defiance of federal policy, we delivered several hundred gallons of water to remote desert locations. On a day when the thermometer would reach 107 degrees, we navigated for several tense

hours a long and forbidding dirt track, nicknamed *The Devil's Highway*. Guided by our *No More Deaths* partners to one of the most deadly travel corridors, we set off on foot, each of us stashing two gallons of water in the meager shade of scraggly bushes or directly in the sand. Second, and much more important in the long run, we offered our moral and religious support to the humble volunteers who do this dangerous and loving work every single day. It was a delight to see the looks of relief and gratitude on their faces as our UU throng rolled into town, some adorned in clerical collars. Apparently, you don't see this kind of support very often out there in Ajo, Arizona!

Religious freedom is too often invoked as a rationale for exclusion. But that blistering weekend was a chance for UUs to invoke religious freedom in support of humanitarian action, to express what we are *for*, not just what we are *against*. Sure, we committed an act of civil disobedience, in plain sight of federal officers, an act that might have resulted in arrest. But more importantly, we firmly and publicly expressed our first UU principle: every immigrant is an inherently worthy *person* who must be treated with dignity and (as our second principle states) compassion. The provision of humanitarian aid is not a crime, it is an act of love, the kind our faith calls us to undertake. And while not all of us can deliver aid in the desert, we can do our best to make damn sure doing so it is not a crime.

This year the Board of Trustees, in partnership with our amazing social justice leaders, will be inviting the whole congregation to reconsider what it means to be a "justice centered" congregation. With guidance from the UUA and through learning, discussion, and relationship-building activities at UUCP, we hope to deepen and broaden support for our existing social justice initiatives while also prioritizing new possibilities. For me at least, this will be a year of clarifying what we are for. I hope every single UUCP member will feel welcomed, even called, to join us in that discussion.

*Continued from "It is the Work..." page 1*

My own moment of clarity came toward the end of our sweaty trek into the desert. Alerted to the possibility that human remains are sometimes discovered in the area, I spotted a white object nestled in the desert sand. My heart pounding with dread, I moved closer, finally knowing that I was looking at the remains of a spine and vertebra. *No More Deaths* volunteers follow a respectful and thorough process for identifying human remains. I don't know the outcome of that process. But I can't think of that stark discovery, even as I write these words, without tears welling in my eyes. It is simple. As a Unitarian Universalist I want all humans to live, and die, with dignity and compassion. That is what I am for. And, as co-president with Mary Dawes of the UUCP Board of Trustees, I am eager to learn what you are for. □

## Board of Trustees Meetings:

All are welcome!

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month

6:00 pm, social

6:30 pm, business commences

justice, to call for the redress of criminal wrongs. In a moral sense, our American religious literature and scriptures speak to a morality between humans and the Divine. Was it not this morality that spawned those Unitarian Universalist ministers and lay people to hear the call of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and travel to Selma, Alabama, in 1965? I Bless the Rev. James Reeb, Ms. Viola Gregg Liuzzo and the other white Americans who heard the call and supported the movement for justice for all Americans.

I believe we are faced with the reality that American slavery was and remains the basis of American Prosperity. All of our prosperity. In the words of Ta-Nehisi Coates, "until we reckon with the compounding moral debts of our ancestors, America will never be whole." How do we do it? I don't know; what I do know is we need to talk about it. Let's talk about it in sacred space from a place of grace, with no blame, no shame, and allow to happen what James Baldwin reminds us of: "love takes off the masks that we cannot live without and know we cannot live within." This is our heritage and it is the work that remains. □

## Calling all UUCP Artists, Crafters, and Lovers of Arts and Crafts!

Save the date!

Sunday, November 11, 2018

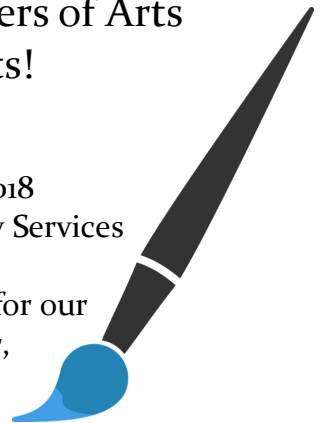
Before and After Sunday Services

Reserve your calendars for our  
UUCP Arts & Crafts Fair,  
a fundraiser to benefit  
UUCP!



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

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





## Adult Faith Development 2018-19

On Thursday nights in the fall and spring, we come together as a congregation for Community Night. The evening starts with an opportunity to share a meal, and then continues with programming designed to help us to live into our vision: To Be a Spiritual Community for our Time—Theologically Diverse, Radically Inclusive, and Justice Centered.

Classes to enrich our spirituality, or to explore some of the diverse sources of our faith traditions, deepen our awareness of Theological Diversity in our faith. Small groups allow us to witness the stories of others in our community, and through listening deeply, learn to be inclusive by finding shared humanity in each person. Guest speakers from our justice partners keep us informed on how we can act in the spirit of “service is our prayer” and center ourselves in Justice. More information on many of these opportunities is below, as well as at [Phoenixuu.org/AFD](https://www.phoenixuu.org/AFD), where you can register. We hope to see you!

### Deepening Connections in Small Groups

Small Groups provide a connected reflective space in which to explore matters great and small, applying our monthly themes to the world and to your life. Group leaders are offered training in facilitating group discussions, and a monthly packet of materials is provided to support reflection on the theme.

There are several types of group, varied to provide both inclusiveness and connection. Some groups are defined by their members’ identity or role in life, and others are intentionally open and mixed in participant identities. Some groups are size-limited and require registration and a one-year commitment, while others may have optional registration, but are also open to drop-in participation. You are always welcome to sample a Small Group by attending the *Thursday Evening “Open” Drop-in Group* on the third Thursday evening of each

month.

Registration for small groups begins each year in September. For more information and to register: <https://www.phoenixuu.org/small-group-overview/>. If you need further information, check with Rev. Margret or John Wilber ([jwilber2001@yahoo.com](mailto:jwilber2001@yahoo.com)).

### Faith Development in Creativity, Movement and Stillness

As a community of faith, we strengthen our connections and live into our values through our creative explorations, our energetic movement, and our grounded stillness. UUCP offers opportunities to create with poetry, art and music; to share our ideas and experiences in discussion; to engage in outdoor and indoor activity; and to explore inner space in meditation and silence.

The opportunities to create, and to explore movement and stillness, are open to all, though some programs have size limits and require prior registration. For some you need to have supplies or instruments; for others you simply come as you are. You are invited to explore the wide range of faith development options in Creativity, Movement and Stillness in our Connections program catalog or at <https://www.phoenixuu.org/afd/>. Each description includes instructions on how to get involved by contacting the organizer or registering online.



### The Promise and the Practice of Our Faith

Imagine what our faith would look like if we upheld and centered the history, the perspectives, the voices, and the leadership of Black Lives of Unitarian Universalists. The Promise and the Practice of Our Faith Campaign is our opportunity to take the lead as



a faith denomination in addressing our history of upholding white supremacy. Together, we can collectively work to dismantle it and amend a long broken promise to the Black Lives within our Association.

UUCP joins our UU Association of Congregations in this extraordinary moment to connect our finances with our theological values as we enter a new chapter within our faith.

We are joining in the Promise and the Practice of Our Faith by taking the following actions:

- Scheduling at least three Sunday's to engage the issues raised by The Promise and the Practice of Our Faith—the legacy of racism in our nation, and the promise of undoing the system of White Supremacy.
- Mobilizing our financial commitment in our support to BLUU that is transformational and inspirational to help fulfill the promise by dedicating three Share the Plate collections to The Promise and the Practice—hoping to meet the national goal of contributing at least \$10 per certified member of UUCP (about \$4,500 across the three collections)
- Joining with other congregations in the UUA in making a long-term commitment to dismantling white supremacy, racism and oppression from within our denomination and beyond, and uplifting the Black Lives, Voices, and Leadership of Unitarian Universalism.

**UUCP's Share the Plate contribution on Sunday, October 21 will be dedicated to The Promise and the Practice.** This is our time to be Bold, Radical, and Transformational as we commit to nurture a radically inclusive, justice centered, multiracial and multigenerational religious faith!

*Continued on next page*

## Membership at UUCP

Have you been considering membership here at UUCP? Do you feel ready to make a commitment, to move from an observer of the congregation, to part of its fabric? Do you want to have a voice and a vote when we choose to call our new Minister in the spring?

If you'd like to learn more, come to the Inquirers "Membership" topic on September 30, 9:45-10:45 AM. Pick up a Pathway to Membership map from Janine Gelsinger, Director of Membership and Welcoming Ministries at the welcome desk, before or after any Inquirers group, or by emailing [JanineGelsinger@PhoenixUU.org](mailto:JanineGelsinger@PhoenixUU.org).

In order to become a member, you must turn your completed map in to Janine by November 30. The new member joining ceremony will be at both services on December 9. This will be the last chance to join the congregation before our ministerial search committee calls the minister... be a part of this step in the future of our community!



## Upcoming Faith Development & Justice Opportunities



*Welcoming vs. Othering* with Janine Gelsinger  
10/4; 6:45-8:30 pm

In *Welcoming vs. Othering*, we will cover basic intercultural hospitality. Without an understanding of cross-cultural perspectives, a well-intentioned greeting can have the impact of a microaggression. As our congregation deepens in diversity, learn how to truly welcome all, and avoid statements and questions that contribute to a feeling of “othering.” Members of the Welcoming Ministries are encouraged to complete this class.

*Spiritual Practices* with Anthony Johnson  
10/4, 10/11, 11/1, 11/8, 12/6; 6:45-8:30 pm

Spiritual practice creates an intentional pause in our lives at regular intervals so that we may better know the contents of our souls. It is a way to meet the self and learn about our deepest longings. It is also a way to draw into closer relationship with that which is larger than us. The objective of these sessions is to help you deepen your spiritual life by engaging in a daily practice, weekly worship, monthly service, yearly retreat, and one-time pilgrimage. Attend all 13 sessions, or choose the practices that appeal to you.

*BLUUbox* with Janine Gelsinger  
10/11, 11/15, 12/13; 6:45-8:30 pm

The Black Lives of UU (BLUU) Spiritual Subscription Box, and the corresponding group at UUCP, is a one-of-a-kind, innovative way for individuals and congregations to inform, grow and deepen their faith. With content grounded in the lived experiences and diverse perspectives of Black Unitarian Universalists, this subscription box is a wholly unique opportunity to connect one’s beliefs to faith-led action while building community with others who are dedicated to justice-making and liberation through our shared faith. To join, please subscribe at <http://www.blacklivesuu.com/bluubox>.

*Seek First to Understand, Then to be Understood* with Dr. Gayle Cordes

10/18; 6:45-8:30 pm

“I can’t understand my kid.” “My partner just doesn’t get it.” “My employees don’t listen to what I tell them.” Sound familiar? We have all experienced struggles with interpersonal communications—maybe even worked on techniques to improve our skills. In this class, we will explore Stephen Covey’s Habit 5 from *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*. If you’d like to move beyond techniques alone, join us as we learn more about how to build the skills of empathic listening on a base of character that inspires openness and trust.

*Singing Meditation* with Benjie Messer  
10/25; 7:00-8:00 pm

Join Music Director Benjie Messer to center yourselves with an hour of singing meditation, including toning, chants, and simple songs from world traditions. No singing or meditation experience necessary.

*Men’s Group* with Anthony Johnson  
10/25, 11/29; 6:45-9:00 pm

The primary goal of this men’s ministry is to assist men in our quest to discover who we are as men, as sons, fathers, grandfathers, husbands, partners, friends and brothers. We support and engender a masculinity that is male-positive, pro-feminist/womanist, gay-affirming, culturally and racially inclusive and diverse. A masculinity dedicated to spiritual and personal growth and one that challenges men to confront gender injustice, homophobia, racism, loneliness and the distrust between men and women, children, other men, ourselves, and the earth. We will meet in circles created as sacred spaces by men. Through listening to men’s stories, exercise, process and ritual, men will engage and

explore the masculine and feminine energies resident in every man. We must challenge and support men to “become hunters of a more invisible game.”

*Fighting for the Future of Arizona’s Public Schools* with Save Our Schools AZ’s Melinda Merkel Iyer & Sharon Kirsch

10/25; 6:45-8:30 pm

Join Melinda Merkel Iyer and Sharon Kirsch, two of the co-founders of Save Our Schools Arizona, for an engaging conversation about the state of public education in Arizona. Come learn what’s happened to school funding over the years, discuss the history of privatization in our state, and explore the many ways for you to get involved!

*Arizona Water Vision* with Green Sanctuary + Arizona Water Vision

11/1; 6:45-8:30 pm

As Thomas Berry said, rivers have river rights, but have lost their voices. We can be voices for them in political and business arenas. Arizona Water Vision was organized to support HB 2581 and the free flowing of water in AZ rivers: the Agua Fria, Babocomari, San Pedro, Upper Verde and Little Colorado. If not protected, it is expected that groundwater demand in these river basins will exceed flow by 2050. Join host Green Sanctuary and guests from Arizona Water Vision to hear more about these water protection efforts.

*Registration & More Info for*

## Adult Faith Development

offerings can be found at:

– <http://www.phoenixuu.org/afd/> –

Questions: [geoffanderla@phoenixuu.org](mailto:geoffanderla@phoenixuu.org)



## Community Dance

Saturday, November 3

6:30-8:30 pm

UUCP Sanctuary

Join us! We’ll have live music for traditional dance patterns with the joyful guidance of Peg Hesley. Come to promenade, do si do, play and laugh together. Bring family and friends and neighbors for inter-generational fun. (Childcare available for the youngest.)

\$2.00 -\$5.00 optional contribution

Bring your water bottle; wear comfortable shoes and clothes.

Ultra optional: Bring a plate of finger food to share at the mid-evening break.

Sponsored by people who love our community of love and possibility.

Questions: [Carolyn.allenby@gmail.com](mailto:Carolyn.allenby@gmail.com).

## 2018 UUCP Annual Auction



The UUCP Auction Committee is counting on you, the Congregation, to make this year's Fundraising auction a complete success.

Our goal is to make it a party on the evening of December 1 with music, food, and items to bid on. This year the plan is to have physical items, services, and events. There will be both a silent auction as well as a live auction. It must be all-inclusive in every respect. We need items, services, and events for all ages and all wallets. We want there to be something for everyone.

If you haven't yet been to or hosted an auction event, consider hosting and/or bidding on one this year. The events held in people's homes are a fantastic way to make new connections. While it may seem really strange to be going to dinner with people you do not know in the home of someone you have never met, I can guarantee you within the first 30 minutes you will be comfortable and enjoying yourself with people you are going to want to engage with going forward. Host a home event and wonderful people show up to enjoy the party you have created.

In case you have thought about hosting an event but didn't know what to offer, your Auction Committee has put together a list of ideas for your consideration. None of these ideas are particularly fleshed out, with good reason. Find an idea that inspires you and make the magic happen. Have an idea

that is not on the list? Go with it! On a limited budget? Consider having a fun event and making it a potluck. UUer's know how to do potlucks!

Please email [auction@phoenixuu.org](mailto:auction@phoenixuu.org) to sign up for hosting an event, offering a service, or placing a wonderful physical object up for bid. **We would like all items to be submitted by November 1.** This year all of the proceeds will go to the general fund for UUCP. Help support this wonderful beloved community. Join in the AUCTION FUNdraising!

### Auction Ideas!

#### EVENTS

- Offer horseback rides
- Hire a speaker that might have an inspirational, justice, or timely message
- Offer one show or concert from a season tickets package
- Host two or more people at a baseball or football game, etc.
- Host two or more people at a spring training game
- Offer one or more painting, music, dance classes
- Host Brunch at a restaurant or cafe for two or more people

#### THEMED PARTIES

- Host a Kentucky derby watch party (mint juleps, hats . . .)
- Host an Indianapolis 500 watch party
- Host an Irish dinner/lunch for St. Patrick's Day
- Host a Scrabble party
- Host a Mardi Gras event (lunch/dinner)
- Host an Academy Awards or Golden Globes party
- Host a Cinco de Mayo party
- Host a Hawaiian, Mexican, Native American, Japanese, Eritrean dinner, discussing foods and recipes (ethnicity not limited to this list!)
- Host high tea for adults
- Host a wine and cheese tasting/pairing event



## Outdoor Group

- Host a vegan dinner from soup to nuts
- Host an ice cream social

### SERVICES

- Offer to put up and take down holiday decorations or lights at someone's house
- Offer gift wrapping for holiday or birthday presents
- Offer a ride to and from anywhere in a 20-mile radius during the day/night
- Offer computer classes/assistance in Word or Excel
- Offer any service that people might find useful that you have a talent for
- Offer knitting or crochet classes
- Offer to cook someone dinner in their home

### CHILDREN'S EVENTS

- Host a child's unbirthday party with costumes
- Host a child's party offering a juggler or a magician
- Host a child's tea party
- Host a child's swim party
- Host one or more children at one of the water-parks
- Offer a rent-a-grandparent childcare service for an evening away from the wee ones
- Host a half-year birthday party at a kid's home complete with cake and party games



The hiking season is about to be underway. Saturday, October 13, is our second annual campout at Sunset Crater National Monument, 20 to 30 minutes northeast of Flagstaff. This action-packed weekend will get our season off to a great start, and we would love to have you join us!

Saturday morning Stephanie and Todd Haughton will be leading the hike that promises to take us through a stunningly beautiful aspen forest in the height of its fall glory. Following the hike, we will find a place for lunch and an opportunity to talk about what a wonderful morning we had. The afternoon can be a chance to relax at your campsite or do one of the beautiful hikes at Sunset Crater before we reconvene around the campfire for hotdogs and s'mores. If last year is any prediction for this year, we can count on some music and storytelling. Bring your instrument and plan on being a star! Ed and I will provide the hotdogs, and, if you are willing and able, please bring a potluck dish to share. Keep in mind, if you are not one to fancy the camping experience, motel rooms in Flagstaff are a short drive away. This is a family friendly weekend.

Saturday, October 28, will be the Horton Creek Hike led by Dan Hunn and Phil Slater. The hike will be an out-and-back; so you can go all the way or turn back when you have had enough. Everyone will be encouraged to bring along a sack lunch to enjoy in the beauty of the outdoors. Weather in Arizona is perfect for hiking in October. Don't miss a terrific opportunity.

The Outdoor Group is the way to get connected with people who love the outdoors, being active, and hiking. There will be further details for both hikes in e-mails to everyone on our mailing list. If you would like to be added to the Outdoor Group mailing list for this and upcoming hikes, please send your contact information to our coordinator at [outdoorgroup@phoenixuu.org](mailto:outdoorgroup@phoenixuu.org). Your information will not be used for any purpose other than Outdoor Group business. □



## Unicare News

**W**e lift up those in our community who share their joys, transitions, sorrows and wishes. May they find strength in the love of community.

### Healing Wishes & Transitions:

Jenny Jones Moats took a serious tumble off her bike in late September and is healing from a broken arm and broken facial bones. As she recovers from surgery and multiple bruises, she appreciates the outpouring of support, encouragement and healing thoughts.

Bob Aiken took a nasty fall, breaking both ankles (one would have been bad enough!). He is recovering in a rehab facility and would love to hear from his community: The Advanced Healthcare of Mesa, 5755 E. Main, Mesa, 85205. We wish you a full recovery, Bob!

Jasu Alagia is recovering from knee replacement surgery she had in late August.

If you are interested in contributing a meal to Jen Hempel, who is battling breast cancer, please check out the Mealtrain for her family here: <https://mealtrain.com/68n3gd>. This once a week mealtrain helps alleviate the burden of her cancer journey and is much appreciated. If you have any questions about Mealtrain, contact [unicare@phoenixuu.org](mailto:unicare@phoenixuu.org).

### Milestones and Celebrations:

Nancy McCharen and Dave Bellama celebrated the birth of their granddaughter Amelia Katheryn in late August. Joy!

Jack and Jane Grenard celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 16. Congratulations!

Are you interested in sharing your love and a little time to support others in our UU community? Consider joining the Unicare e-Group. We welcome those with caring hearts and able hands who wish to put them to good use with our team of compassionate volunteers. We provide support by sending cards/notes, emails, an occasional meal or providing transportation. You choose when you wish to participate. To sign up or for more information, contact Vicki Myers at [unicare@phoenixuu.org](mailto:unicare@phoenixuu.org). □

## Memorial Garden

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

Roger Davy  
Rodney Earl Engelen  
William Frank Hall  
Evemarie Holl Mosher  
Homer M. Sarasohn  
Walter Blake Williamson, Jr.  
Pauline Manker Gay

## October Worship Theme: **Heritage**

*Sunday services bring our community together at 9:30 & 11:15\**

### **October 7: The Minister We Dream Of**

Service Leaders: Rev. Margret A. O'Neill and the Ministerial Search Committee

The Search Committee wants to know what you think! In this special Sunday service, we will divide into small groups to discuss how you would describe this church now, the future you imagine, and what success will look like in that future. Come let your voice be heard!

### **October 14: Gender Identity: Language and Spaces**

Service Leader: Rev. Margret A. O'Neill

Living into our vision to be radically inclusive, we learn to use our language and spaces to respect people of all gender identities. Let us embark with courage and openness on the path to become truly welcoming to all. Stay late or come early for the workshop between services.

### **October 21: How Did We Become a Racially Polarized Country/Faith?**

Service Leader: Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kūpono Kwong

The “original sin” of racism is our heritage in America, deeply woven into even our Unitarian and Universalist faith and theology. How can we change our trajectory to individually and collectively repent the sin of racism? Let us re-imagine our ever-evolving faith to build the world we dream about.

### **October 28: Dia de los Muertos**

Service Leader: Sylvia Sharma

At this sacred time, we honor our connection with the spirit world, celebrating the rich heritage, the legacy and gifts of our ancestors. All are welcome in this multigenerational service to bring a photo or memento of a beloved who has died to place upon the ceremonial altar.

*\*American Sign Language interpreter available at some services.*

*See [phoenixuu.org/worship/asl](http://phoenixuu.org/worship/asl) for most recent details.*



Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
of Phoenix  
4027 E. Lincoln Drive  
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253

NON PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
SCOTTSDALE, AZ  
PERMIT NO. 13



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF PHOENIX

THEOLOGICALLY DIVERSE  
RADICALLY INCLUSIVE  
JUSTICE CENTERED