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# Sky Island Unitarian Universalist Church

## Weekly Connections Newsletter

for week of 02/11/18

Happy Valentine's Day

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This congregation affirms and promotes the full participation of persons in all our activities and endeavors without regard to race, color, gender, physical or mental challenge, affectional or sexual orientation, class or national origin.

### **Sunday Service February 11 @ 10:30AM: *The Dred Scott Decision and Its Many Repudiations***

Chief Justice Roger Taney's 1857 opinion in *Dred Scott v. Sandford* has justifiably been called the worst single decision of the United States Supreme Court, and in the years since the opinion was published it has been repudiated repeatedly. The very name of the case now serves as a shorthand epithet to condemn any new court decision of which one disapproves, as in: "It's the new *Dred Scott*!" What, exactly, did the Supreme Court decide - and who cares? What did *Dred Scott* set in motion, and what does its legacy mean for us today?

**Message:** Wallace (Wally) R. Hoggatt

**Bio:** Wally is serving in his twenty-second year as a superior court judge in Cochise County. As a child growing up in Los Angeles, he attended First Unitarian Church on Vermont and Eighth Street.

He has been a member of this congregation since 2008.

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**Sunday Service February 18 @ 10:30AM:**

***Perseverance: Positive or Punishing?"***

Psychologist Angela Duckworth celebrates "grit" the winning "combination of passion and perseverance for very long-term goals" yet researcher Gale Lucas finds that grittier people are less likely to give up, even when it costs them to continue. When is perseverance a good trait, when does it hold us back, how can we nurture and temper it, and can community help us do so?

**Message:** Rev. Tina Squire

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**Phoenix Restoration Project: Donations Needed By Sunday AM February 18**

As we did last year, SIUUC will be collecting donations to provide to the Phoenix Restoration Project which offers aid to immigrants, vetted by Homeland Security, who are dropped off at Phoenix bus stations or who are traveling through Phoenix from ICE detention centers. Groups include parents and children released by Border Patrol.

Please put your donated items in the green container in the entry lobby. Items needed:

Tuna or chicken in flip-top cans or foil bags, nuts in bags or flip-top tins, protein bars, snack bars, cheese & crackers, applesauce & fruit in cups or foil packages, hygiene products, wash cloths or toothpaste, boxes of women's feminine hygiene items (no tampons), tubes of lip balm, hair brushes and combs, lap blankets. **All items in small travel size only!**  
Sharon Travis

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**Save The Date: UU Day at the Legislature is planned for Monday,**

## **February 19.**

Please join UUs from all over Arizona when we meet with legislators as people of faith to express our concerns about Arizona and build relationships with our legislators. Please use this link to [REGISTER](#) for the event (no cost to register) or for more information contact Sharon Travis, [520 432-2210](tel:5204322210) or [rstravis1@msn.com](mailto:rstravis1@msn.com)

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## **Mankind Project Information Presentation February 24 @10:30AM at St. Stephens Episcopal Church**

See bulletin board for more information

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## **Immigrant Justice Solidarity Workshop Feb. 24**

Want to know what's happening in Immigration Justice in southeast AZ? Attend the Immigrant Justice Solidarity workshop hosted by UU Church of Tucson Saturday 2/24 from 9AM-1PM. Snacks and childcare provided. Registration opens Friday 2/9 at [UUJAZ](#) with more details. Presented by No More Deaths and SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice), hosted by UUJAZ.

Thank you!

Rev. Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings

Community Minister in Affiliation with UU Congregation of Green Valley in Amado

Executive Director, Unitarian Universalist Justice Arizona Network (UUJAZ)

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## **2018 Pacific Western Regional Assembly, April 27-29, in Portland, Oregon: Registration opens on January 4th**

See bulletin board for more information or click [HERE](#) for the website.

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**New Members Welcome**

We are pleased to welcome Paul and Barb Vercoe back into membership. In addition, we have three new members: Ann Aust, Janette Davies, and Linda Thompson. We are so happy they have joined us, and we will be officially welcoming them during a short ceremony at the Sunday, February 11th service.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the congregation, please contact Rev. Linda to schedule a time to review our new member materials and sign the membership book.

For those of you who have not had a chance to meet our new members, [HERE](#) is a bit of information by way of introduction:

Welcome to our new and returning members!  
Rev. Linda Lawrence

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### **From Rev. Linda Lawrence**

We will only be selling our next UU Common Read books through the end of February. Be sure to get your copy after any Sunday service this month: The New Jim Crow (\$15, discussion on March 10) and Daring Democracy (\$13, discussion March 18 & 25).

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### **Food**

Please do not take food from the church's refrigerator/freezer that doesn't belong to you especially if it's labeled and sealed. Chances are, it's there for a reason such as Sunday refreshments or a special meeting. Of course outdated food should be thrown out. Be sure to label any food that's put in the refrigerator/freezer with your name. Also date any food once it's opened.

Terry Z

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### **DNA by Ellen Taylor**

We have been discussing "Centering", a book written by minority UU ministers and other UU professionals. The book deals with racism in our own (UU) congregations.

I have been working on my family history for close to 40 years now. As there are always brick walls, genetic genealogy seemed like the way to go. It is new, and continually changing. Adoptees are finding their biological families and the rest of us are, if not climbing those brick walls are finding distant relatives stuck on the same brick walls.

When I discovered genetic genealogy, I hoped that I would find all those elusive ancestors that keep refusing to climb my tree. I was mildly interested in my deep ancestry. I thought I already knew my ethnicity, and as it turned out, I did, for the most part. I knew that I was British Isles-British, Scot, Irish, Northern Irish, and most likely Welsh, and a lot German, and a great grandfather who was Prussian, whose family was in Poland for a couple of hundred years. DNA has found some Eastern European Ancestry. The amount of Scandinavian was a surprise, most likely a lot of Viking DNA.

I transferred my raw data, my husband's raw data, as well as 2 of my cousins to a company called gedmatch.com. This is a free site, academically oriented. They go deeper into what your DNA will tell you. With that I began to have some surprises for my husband, as well as myself.

My husband's DNA was more of a surprise- Amerindian, Oceanian and Sub-Saharan. These are really very small, somewhat insignificant, but all show up for him. His maternal family were early Dutch settlers in and around New York, and who knows where else. None of those Amerindian, Oceanian and Sub-Saharan matches make him part of those groups. A lot of us, thanks to very very early immigrant ancestors get a little of Amerindian or Sub Saharan DNA. As technology improves, we are finding more and more information. All of the companies seem to continue to look at each of us. Recently, my husband's sub-Saharan was shown to be Bantu and two different pigmy tribes. (That seems a little far-fetched. On the other hand, who knows?) It still is a very small percentage, and probably goes back to very early man.

I think that my real surprises came with my early research, not so much DNA. I was stunned to find that my perfect ancestors in Pennsylvania owned slaves. That was a blow. I was upset, and sorry to hear that. I haven't found any slaves owned by any of my southern ancestors, but we

do have brick walls on some of those lines, so it may be that I just have not found them yet.

I also have found a couple of very distant African American matches to my DNA. This does not cause me any distress, except the thought that one of my ancestors could have fathered a child with one of his slaves.

We were discussing Black Lives Matter on one of DNA message boards I follow on Facebook. At the end of the discussion, one woman said, "We are all the same according to DNA, so why do we keep talking about racism. " My response to her was, just because we may have African or Amerindian, or South Sea Islander or Hispanic DNA does not make us part of any one of those racial or ethnic or Religious groups that seem to be singled out for being the "other" or makes us understand what they experience in regard to racism. It still exists. Some people, even in our own congregations, still see people with darker skin, or other cultural differences as the "Other".

I was pretty shocked when I read "Centering" and realized how some of the ministers had been treated. We perfect UU's are not as welcoming as we think we are. I recommend the book. "Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity, and Power in Ministry" edited by Mitra Rahnema

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Minister: Rev. Linda Lawrence  
Office hours are 12 noon-4PM on Tuesdays  
and by appointment.

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Tuesdays & Fridays 11am-3pm  
Phone: 520-378-0197

Sunday Services: 10:30am

Visit Us on the Web @  
[www.skyislanduu.org](http://www.skyislanduu.org)

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Sunday Services Committee Meeting [Minutes](#) 01/03/18

Click [HERE](#) for Important Links and Recurring Information 01/05/18.

Church [CALENDAR](#)

All meetings and events are open to members and friends of the congregation unless otherwise noted.

The current Members/Friends Directory is [HERE](#) 12/29/17. It is password protected. If you need the password contact Terry Z at [skyislandchurch@gmail.com](mailto:skyislandchurch@gmail.com).

Facebook [PAGE](#)

**Submitting Items for Newsletter, Calendar, Directory, etc.**

The deadline for submitting newsletter items is Wednesday at 5PM. For those without email, please place a typed copy in the folder in the wall file holder in the office marked "Newsletter". For directory changes, calendar entries, or for issues with podcasts, the Sky Island UUC website or the office computers, please contact: [skyislandchurch@gmail.com](mailto:skyislandchurch@gmail.com)

**Please do not send to an individual person's email.**