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Priorities: SPIRIT OF JOY
Goals: TAKING CARE OF SELF PHYSICALLY & SPIRITUALLY

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DAYS

THEME: “Changing the World Through Grace”

Leadership Development Days are upon us once again. For you new officers, this is the yearly local organization officer training. The locations and dates are listed below:

January 19, 2019    Gila Mountain UMC, Yuma
January 26, 2019    First UMC, Glendale

We invite all officers (whether they are new in their positions or not) to attend these training sessions. Come to a day of fun and learning! This is the time to pass on your knowledge and experience while learning more new things!

The registration form is located at the following Desert Southwest Conference United Methodist Women website:
www.dscumc.org/event/umw-leadership-training

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE TRAINING DAY.

January 12, 2019    Yuma area
January 19, 2019    Phoenix area

MEETING TIMES:
8:15 am - 9:00 am    Registration. (A light breakfast will be served.)
9:00 am
11:30 am - 12:00 pm    Finish training and leave to go home
CARING FOR OTHERS

Every November, the women from my home church, Trinity United Methodist Church, Phoenix, has a women’s retreat in Prescott. We just returned from our time in the cool pines of Prescott last weekend. While there, we focused on “Caring for Others” (Congregational Care) and we studied and discussed all of the ways we, as a church, can care for each other and those around us. Of course, as members of United Methodist Women, we are very well aware of the work in our mission field – both here and abroad. but we should never forget the needs of those sitting in our very own pews.

We talked about “Getting to the Heart of the Matter” and how (with humility) we have to peel off the outer layers of ourselves and others to reveal our hearts before we are able to truly care for someone outside of the “Hi, how are you today?” There are so many things that affect us today – our health, others around us, work conditions and issues in the workplace, finances and so much more. If we are to truly care for those around us, we need to gain their trust so a meaningful conversation about “how we are doing” can take place.

I urge all of us to truly look at our church community – put on the brakes in our own very busy lives and find those that we don’t know very good -- those sitting alone, those who are new to the congregation, our older – perhaps alone – members, those who have been ill and are just returning to the fold, or those who are missing from their usual church pews. Seek out those persons and go beyond the “Hi - how ‘ya doing?” - to engage them in a meaningful conversation. There are so many ways we can care for our very own.

I borrowed the following from Bobbie Norris, (President of South District) because I feel that it reflects “caring for others”.

“We follow in the tradition of women like Ruth, who not only spoke words of love to her mother-in-law, Naomi, but acted on them. Ruth was a foreigner who did not know the God her mother-in-law worshipped. However, by staying with Naomi and following God’s ways, Ruth provided comfort and hope for a new future. The story of Ruth is the story of faith, hope and love in action—a hallmark of United Methodist Women members. United Methodist Women is organized so that each member may live out her calling and faith story for God’s mission. God calls everyday people like us to step out in faith to minister to people in need of God’s hope and love in their lives, to walk with them and to be formed ourselves. It could be a mother-in-law, a neighbor, a refugee halfway around the world.”

May God bless each and every one of you during this Christmas Season. May we all know it is our calling to be the “hands and hearts” of our Lord Jesus Christ in caring for others during this season of love.

Grace and Blessings,

Cheryl Buchholtz,  President,
westpresbuchholtz@yahoo.com

The PURPOSE of United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.
VICE PRESIDENT’S THOUGHTS

General Assembly 2018
Escape to Greater Columbus Metro (Main) Library

One afternoon after attending my pre-registered workshop and having explored all the information booths, exhibitions, and vendors in Experience Hall, I decided to escape the Assembly to discover more about the community of Columbus. Since I dearly love libraries, I asked the young receptionist at the Hilton if she could suggest the nearest public library. She said there was one within walking distance but she highly recommended the Metro Library for its beauty, collections, architecture, and history though it was a further distance. So off I went in the fastest Lyft.

And what a lucky find it was! Perhaps one of the oldest libraries in Columbus, the Metro on Grant Avenue has benefited from several facelifts and renovations. The latest in the 1990’s included Barbara Bush as an invited guest. The white marble structure is surrounded by greenery and a patio attached to the main back entrance. Apart from a vast book, CD, and DVD collection, the library has a fine gift shop run by the Friends of the Library and a Java Coffee Shop on the first floor. This library also boasts wonderful modern art and has several galleries. Enormous spheres and mobiles entice eyes to the ceiling of the foyer. A central indoor staircase is covered with humorous and colorful murals depicting life in downtown Columbus. One of the rooms featured written, visual, and oral personal histories. One young woman prefaced her story with a quote from Proverbs (11:16): “A kindhearted woman gains honor, but ruthless men gain only wealth.”

Luck continued with me. In the Carnegie Gallery on the second floor the exhibition Sisters was mounted until the end of June. Paintings and mixed media were rich in diversity and universal themes. The show was based on the 360-page book published in 2017 by Chukwuemeka Ben Bosah entitled The Art of Nigerian Women. What an inspiring and informative afternoon it was! Thanks to Lyft I made it back to the convention center in plenty of time for the evening's community gathering, including the "Re(View)" and "The Wedding at Cana" (Acts I, II and III).

My escape to the library gave me another look at Columbus, a city that values its history and culture. People were especially welcoming and I reflected again on the reason why the city had been chosen for this meeting. It was because in the 1880’s when United Methodist Women had their first General Assembly, Columbus was the only city that would allow black and white women to stay in the same hotel. How far we have come! And what foresight United Methodist Women have always displayed!

Your sister in Christ,

Eva Ndavu, erndavu@yahoo.com

West District Vice President
SECRETARY’S TIDBITS

Fall has been a super busy time for me, and I bet for you too. First, I attended the District Annual Celebration on October 6th, where new members of the leadership team were installed. Then, I visited New Song United Methodist Church in Surprise for a church wide Talent Show. What a fantastic event! And what a fantastic idea, showcasing the wonderful talent of both young and old. I saw crafts, art, singing, playacting, dancing, and so many great foods! One of the reasons I mention this wonderful event is to thank the lovely ladies of the New Song United Methodist Women for the invitation. I had a wonderful time.

Second, as we are coming up on the United Methodist Women 150th anniversary next year, it is a good idea to consider what kinds of fun activities we can participate in as ‘Fun-Raisers’ for the Legacy Fund. This year’s Rock-a-Thon was a blast, and now we have the opportunity to plan many more fun activities to raise funds for the future of the United Methodist Women. I would love to find out the talent, skills, or any activities you might be planning around the district.

I also had the opportunity to attend the 2018 Conference Annual Celebration at Desert Spring United Methodist Church in Las Vegas. Sadly, I was not able to take the bus with the other ladies, which meant I missed all the fun. But I did see a lot of ladies from all over the districts. Friday night, we had a conversation on the Way Forward. It was a diplomatic, loving, and caring expression of differing points of view. I was so pleased that our ladies felt they could share different perspectives with love. This event was a great deal like the Holy Huddles being offered around the district. If you have the opportunity, let me encourage you to participate in learning with love. On Saturday, we had the mission fair. I found a lot of information about the 150th anniversary, as well as several outreach programs being run throughout the North District and nation wide. Finally, we had the conference meeting. It was exciting to put faces to the names of the ladies we see on the websites and in the newsletters, but perhaps don’t get to see that often. It was a lovely trip and I had a wonderful time.

This leads me to my hope for you. Sisters, our Leadership Development Day is coming up. January 19th, we will be in Yuma at Gila Mountain United Methodist Church. On January 26th, we will be at First United Methodist Church - Glendale. The theme of this year’s leadership training is Changing the World Through Grace. The registration information is available online as well as in this issue of the Cactus Patch. I am very excited about this day. This is a great opportunity to meet your counterparts, to learn together about what you should be doing in your office and how to stay connected to each other. You also have the chance to learn how other people do the same things, to get support, to make a new friend or two, and to have fun. If you have never attended a Leadership Development Day, please let me personally invite you to attend. If you are even thinking of holding an office, come and learn from us. Take my word, it isn't as scary as it seems. I hope to see you there.

God bless you and keep you safe.

Your Sister in Christ,
Christine Jones, jones.sensei@gmail.com
TREASURER’S OUTLOOK

Happy Fall to all United Methodist Women.

Our District Annual Celebration held at Trinity United Methodist Church Phoenix was tremendous! A Grateful Thank You to Trinity United Methodist Church and United Methodist Women for being our most gracious hosts. Everything was thought through before-hand and all the helpers and were so accommodating. The WHEAT presentation table was spectacular! I am sure many of us managed to get a good start on our holiday and birthday shopping for the year. I know I did. Thank you to Dr. Zivic for sharing her continued dedication and service in our community. Many of our United Methodist Women in attendance provided gently used clothing for the WHEAT Clothes Silo. The services that WHEAT provides helps economically disadvantaged women acquire jobs, succeed in the workplace, build careers and achieve the ultimate goal of an improved quality of life for their children and families. WHEAT serves over 7,000 women annually. For more information go to: https://hungerhurts.org/empower/wheats-clothes-silo/

The year is coming to a close and your final completed remittance form and check is due on Monday, December 10th. If you have any questions or are unsure of any of the 5 giving requirements to be awarded as a “5 STAR Unit”, please send me an email and I will advise what items your unit may need for 2018. Your “5 STAR AWARD” will be presented to your United Methodist Women unit at the 2019 West District Annual Celebration, October 5, 2019. Plan on joining us for fun and fellowship with friends.

Your sister in Christ,

Michele Justice, sgbd2@outlook.com

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS COMMENTS

We need your help in filling some of our offices. The following offices still need to be filled:

- Mission Coordinator for Membership Care
- Communications Coordinator
- Committee of Nominations needs at least one or two more people

The team of the Committee on Nominations would like to thank Jan Kessler to agreeing to fill the Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth position. We on the Committee on Nominations would like to welcome Vicki Keel to the Nominations team.

I hope that your local offices are filled.

The Committee on Nominations sends out special thanks to those officers who are continuing to serve in their current position in 2019. The whole is greatful for our newest elected officers. May God bless each of us as we fulfill 2019 with faith and courage.

God bless you always,

Co-Chairs of Committee on Nominations,

Helen Jackson, phjackson1@q.com
Pam Jackson, pd-jackson36111@live.com

Members of the Committee on Nominations:

- Lila Dell’Aringa, New Song UMC (Class of 2019)
- Vicki Keel, Trinity UMC - Phoenix (Class of 2022)
PROGRAM RESOURCES and MEMBERSHIP CARE CORNER

Thank you to Trinity United Methodist Women of Phoenix for hosting our District Annual Celebration October 6th. Those in attendance learned that the rules are changing for Program Resources. I will no longer have books for sale at our meetings. The recommendation is to purchase your reading program books from Amazon or other book sellers. Some will be available from the resource center. Program books and Prayer Calendars are available from the resource center.

It is time to start sending me the lists of readers from each unit and the category they have completed. These lists are due to me by December 10th. Certificates will be handed out at our Leadership Development Days in January. We will be at Gila Mountain United Methodist Church - Yuma on Saturday, January 19th, and then we will be at First United Methodist Church - Glendale on Saturday, January 26th. Hope to see all of you leaders then. More information is located on the first page of this newsletter.

For those of you in charge of membership at the local level, we did not have anyone step up to be the District Mission Coordinator for Membership Care. So, for the time being, I will be your contact. Be sure to work with your local president to register your total membership on the website, www.unitedmethodistwomen.org. Click on the box “Census 2018” and follow the directions. The deadline is March 30, 2019, but can be done starting in January. Let’s all do our part to report 100% from the West District.

Your sister in Christ,

Colleen Becker, cbecker14@cox.net

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR NOTES

District Leadership Development Days (LDD) is fast approaching. As you can see on page 1 of this issue of the Cactus Patch, they will be held on January 19th at Gila Mountain in Yuma and on January 26th at First Glendale. Please be sure all your officers attend. Even if they have been to previous training, they should still go as things do change and you learn ideas from everyone.

This is my last year as district communications coordinator. I have been serving in this office for 6 years and have enjoyed working with and meeting many ladies in United Methodist Women. Everyone is so happy and glad to be doing such great mission work for women, children and youth. This is a great organization to be a part of. Since we do not have an official “communications coordinator,” our district president, Cheryl Buchholtz, will be taking over the publishing of this newsletter. Please continue to send your articles to her.

God Bless You,

Sharon Weber, sweber08@cox.net
EDUCATION FOR MISSION THOUGHTS

Hello, Sisters in Christ!

I survived the trip on the bus we chartered to Las Vegas to the Desert Southwest Conference Annual Celebration at Desert Spring United Methodist Church. I had never been to Las Vegas. The trip, starting around 9:00 a.m. for me in Sun City, was scenic. I enjoyed the rugged mountains. We never saw the strip, just the church and our hotel. Maybe next time I'll see the strip at night. I'm curious to see it now, after having traveled all that way. We stopped in Kingman for a meal each way. The return trip was in darkness from Kingman to Sun City, so it seemed long. We were tired. I felt sorry for those who started out in Tucson!

Friday evening, we considered "The Way Forward," which you may have heard about and discussed in your local Holy Huddles. Lately, the Prayer Calendar led me to read Romans 13:8-10 about love. Verse 10 says "Love does no wrong to anyone. That's why it fully satisfies all of God's requirements. It is the only law you need." The issue of the Holy Huddles and The Way Forward is whether we should accept lesbians, bisexuals, gays, transsexuals and questioning people into our church family. The mode of operation the bishops are hoping to formally decide on in 2019 is called the One Church option, which will allow individual Methodist churches to decide what they are comfortable with and go with that. Clergy people too. If they are comfortable with same sex weddings, and having their pastors perform them, then they will be allowed to do so, without negative consequences from the church. Conversely, if they are not comfortable with it, no one will try to make them allow same sex weddings in their churches. Hopefully our church will still exist after we are gone. I feel including more people, imperfect people like me, is more Christian.

On Saturday, we had our business meeting, and Betty Mathis, who is retiring, told us briefly how she happened, with God's help, to strengthen the Wesley Community Center in Phoenix, starting in 1994, when it had been on the verge of closing. She led the acquisition of the Golden Gate Community Center, also in Phoenix, and now the two centers are federally qualified health centers. I toured the Wesley Community Center a few years ago. Betty has a lot to show for her efforts. She is a hero. We sang Three Dog Night's version of "Joy to the World" several times, as a refresher between courses of discussion. We didn't sing the "Jeremiah was a bullfrog" part, though. We did learn to sing and sign "Swing Low Sweet Chariot" in our stretch break.

I'm impressed with our leaders. Our Desert Southwest Conference United Methodist Women President, Alberta Farnsworth, is very well spoken and gentle. Judy Nibbelink, our Western Jurisdiction President, hosted us on the bus ride to Las Vegas with games and snacks. She seems very congenial and nice. They are good role models. Our legacy presentation included a cartoon describing heroes of United Methodist Women through the last 150 years. I need good role models. It is good to meet and have a chance to observe Christian women from other churches. We are a good, welcoming, inspiring community of women.

Yours in Christ,

Linda Triolo, lindatriolo@cox.net

If the word isn’t getting out, United Methodist Women are losing out.

Please be sure to share the information in this newsletter with those who don’t have access to a computer or printer.
2019 WEST DISTRICT
LOCAL ORGANIZATION CALENDAR

January 19  LDD – Southwest Area – Gila UMC Yuma – 12716 N. Frontage Rd., Yuma
January 26  LDD – West Valley – First UMC Glendale – 7102 N. 58th Dr., Glendale

February 15  Cactus Patch Article Due

March 23-24  Retreat – Redemptorist Center - 7101 W. Picture Rocks Rd., Tucson, AZ

May 15  Cactus Patch Article Due

July 12-13  Mission u North District/Las Vegas – Trinity UMC, 6151 W. Charleston Blvd., Las Vegas, NV
August 2-3  Mission u East/ West Districts –Lakeview UMC, 10298 W. Thunderbird Blvd., Sun City, AZ

August 15  Cactus Patch Article Due

August 23-24  Mission u South District – Catalina UMC, 2700 E. Speedway Blvd., Tucson

October 5  West District Annual Celebration – Epworth UMC, 4820 N 59th Ave, Phoenix

November 15  Cactus Patch Article Due

WHEN REPORTS ARE DUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DUE DATE</th>
<th>REPORT NAME</th>
<th>SEND TO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 30</td>
<td>Census Report Form</td>
<td>National Website to complete</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>Marilyn Jean Chapman Scholarship and Marilyn Sue Stout Scholarship Applications</td>
<td>District President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 1</td>
<td>Memorial List</td>
<td>District MC Membership Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 30</td>
<td>Your local organization’s officers information</td>
<td>District Secretary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 10</td>
<td>Local Organization Final Financial Report</td>
<td>District Treasurer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 10</td>
<td>Reading Program Participant’s Information</td>
<td>District Secretary of Program Resources</td>
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<td>Dec. 31</td>
<td>Living the Charter for Racial Justice Reporting Form</td>
<td>District MC Social Action</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 31</td>
<td>Mission Today Forms</td>
<td>District President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 31</td>
<td>Outstanding Local Organization Form</td>
<td>District MC for Education for Msn</td>
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THE SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE

The School-to-Prison Pipeline is a term used to describe how children and youth of color are rerouted by systems and institutions and funneled away from education success towards the criminal justice system.

Native American youth are held in juvenile detention facilities at three (3) times the rate of white youth.

White African-American children and youth make up 16% of total school enrollment, African-American students experience 31% of school-based arrests.

African-American students are three (3) times more likely than white students to be suspended and expelled. Native American students are less than 1% of the student population, but comprise 3% of students expulsions and 2% of students suspended out of school.

An average of 250 preschool children across the country were suspended or expelled for bad behavior, according to a new analysis of national data and black children were more than twice as likely to be affected than other children.

Implicit Racial and Gender Biases
Implicit bias skews the perception and judgement of white adult decision makers. Often unintentional and unconscious, it causes people to perceive and respond to the same behavior differently based on race and gender of the child/youth. This bias determines how principals, teachers, school resource officers, police, lawyers, judges, and others making decisions about school discipline respond.

Zero-Tolerance Policies
Zero-tolerance policies gained support as schools became more concerned about weapons being brought to school. As frequently happens, these policies have been expanded to include much less serious offenses. These policies contribute significantly to the criminalization of communities of color and mass incarceration.

Excessive Out-of-School Suspensions and Expulsions
Excessive and unnecessary out-of-school suspensions and expulsions hurt students. They miss out on classroom instruction and then are more likely to drop out of school or end up in the criminal justice system.

Status Offenses
Status offense violations are behaviors not considered offenses if committed by an adult. Among these offenses are running away from home, skipping school, missing curfew, or drinking alcohol. These offenses significantly impact girls because of gender bias.

GET INVOLVED. If you would like to learn more or get involved in mission as a school-to-prison pipeline interrupter, please contact Emily Jones, Executive for Racial Justice, ejones@unitedmethodistwomen.org (212-870-3773).

You can read more of this article at https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/racialjustice/school2prisonpdf

Submitted by
Paula Sallas
topjsallas@yahoo.com
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH—SUN CITY

The United Methodist Women of Sun City enjoyed a salad luncheon for our unit meeting on Monday, October 23rd. During the business meeting, we approved our budget and voted for officers to serve for 2019. Elizabeth/Esther Circle presented the program with interesting facts that we didn’t know about Jesus. Then Mary Brickey talked about World Thank Offering before we made our donations.

Our next unit meeting will be December 16th when we exchange Secret Sister gifts and choose new prayer partners for next year.

Our upcoming events are: Frozen soup sales-January and February sold between church services (very good soups!); Italian Dinner-February 15, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, tickets $8.00; United Methodist Women Sunday -February 17, 2019, speaker Phyllis Murray, Lay Leader North District; Style Show-March 15, 2019, at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall, tickets-$10.00.

Submitted by,
Colleen Becker, President

GILA MOUNTAIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH—YUMA

After a long hot summer here in Yuma, we are coming into that fun time of the year again with the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Our monthly Craft & Bake Sales started again in October and go through March of next year. It’s always exciting to see what the ladies have made during the summer to give our craft sale tables a new look.

Everyone is busy preparing for our Annual Christmas Tea held on Saturday, December 8th. This is always a fun event for our members, ladies from our congregation, and ladies from our community. This fundraiser, as well as our craft and bake sales, help us support our local missions.

All of us at Gila Mountain wish all of you, your families, and friends a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Below is our events for the beginning of next year for Gila Mountain UMC United Methodist women:

January:
12th Holy Huddle
13th Craft and Bake Sale
19th District Leadership Development Day at Gila Mountain United Methodist Church

February:
10th Craft and Bake Sale
24th UMW Sunday

March:
9th Spring Luncheon and Style Show
10th Craft & Bake Sale and White Elephant Sale

Grace and peace,
Sherry Lehl
Secretary
NEW SONG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH—SURPRISE

Summer activities at New Song Methodist Church, Surprise, have kept us all busy planning. Saturday, June 9th, we had our Prayer and Self Denial Program. The program was presented by Lila Dell’Ariiga. The music and the program were well presented and we learned about the roles of women in our country and other places. Following the program, we enjoyed a nice luncheon and fellowship.

On July 21st, at 11:00 a.m., was an all women’s lunch out for all the women in the church. We encouraged ladies to bring a friend along as well and we had a nice time with old friends and new friends. August 11th was our all church movie, “Wonder.” There was pizza and salads before the movie. All had a great time and enjoyed the movie!

September 8th was our Mission u Program at 10:00 a.m. Two of our ladies shared their first experience at Mission u. Our president shared with us pertinent information from the United Methodist Women Assembly which was held in Columbus, Ohio.

October 19th will be our Friday Evening Fundraiser “New Song Has Talent Night” (time to be determined later). Save the date. There will be culinary art samples, visual arts display, and a performing arts show. Tickets are $5 per person, $20 per family.

November 10th, Saturday 10 a.m. This program will be from the Program Book and we will receive our World Thank Offering.

December 8th, Saturday, will be our Christmas Tea. Save the date. (Time to be determined later.)

Submitted by,
Bev Regoulinsky, Communications Coordinator

NEW SONG UPCOMING EVENTS:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 12</td>
<td>Pledge meeting and lunch at 10:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 20</td>
<td>United Methodist Women Sunday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 8</td>
<td>Auction Fundraiser 5:00 p.m.; barbecued hamburgers for dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 9</td>
<td>Social Action Meeting at 10:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 13</td>
<td>Book study at 10:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 11</td>
<td>Lunch UMOM at 10:00 a.m. (offsite)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun. 8</td>
<td>Call to Prayer Meeting and Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul. 13</td>
<td>Ladies Day Out (offsite)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 10</td>
<td>Movie day and lunch at noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 14</td>
<td>Movie at 1:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 11</td>
<td>Fundraiser at 5:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 16</td>
<td>Retreat at Franciscan Renewal Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 8</td>
<td>Christmas Tea at 10:30 a.m.</td>
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