



*A Welcoming Congregation*

## HORIZONS Journal of the UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF PHOENIX

4027 East Lincoln Drive, Paradise Valley, AZ, 85253

December 2010

### This month at a glance:

9—UUEEC Book Fair  
10—Music Night  
15—MUUvie Night  
17—Holly Jolly Singalong  
24—Christmas Eve Services

### Circulo de Amigas and Amazon.com

UUCP and Circulo de Amigas (Circle of Friends) in Nicaragua have enjoyed a long relationship in helping to improve the lives of women and girls in the barrio of Jinotega. UUCP's sponsorship of two girls, Jaritza and Lizbeth, will go a long way to improve their lives through education, as well as their family's (see pictures on bulletin board in hallway). Others in the congregation also sponsor a

student. CdA was founded in the 1990s by UU Pat McCully of California to empower the lives of women and girls. Pat built a campus which houses a clinic, library, sewing machines and sleeping quarters for visitors (for a small fee). Jane and George Pauk and others have made several visits over the years. Currently, more than 100 girls are sponsored in various stages of schooling, some in college and beyond. Recently, CdA has lost several donors due to the economic meltdown, so the organization has teamed up with Amazon.com. When you shop with Amazon.com there is just one extra step to take to help sustain the scholarship program at CdA.

1. Before you shop, go to CdA's home page at [www.camigas.org](http://www.camigas.org)
2. Click on the small Amazon.com link posted on the far left side of page
3. Shop and buy as you usually do

CdA earns a percentage of whatever you spend on Amazon.com when you open [www.camigas.org](http://www.camigas.org)! The more you spend, the higher the percentage CdA earns. At the end of the month, Amazon.com deposits an amount in CdA's account based on total purchases. Money earned through this program goes

directly to CdA students, most of whom would not be educated past the second grade.

Thank you for your continued support of Circulo de Amigas!

### Share the Plate

On Sunday, December 19, all undesignated collections will be donated to The Family School (TFS) as part of our monthly Share the Plate Program. TFS is living out UU values every day. TFS is a nonprofit, comprehensive early childhood center providing preschool and kindergarten to a diverse population in central Phoenix. The school was founded by one of the first directors of UUEEC and a parent of UUEEC students; members of the congregation have enrolled their students at TFS; TFS has close ties with DVLC; and the current board president is a member of UUCP.

The inherent worth and dignity of all and the value of diversity are at the foundation of this school. The Family School strives to look like the world—to have families of diverse backgrounds and structures, ethnicity, languages and income levels. The children have very diverse individual needs; children with special challenges (behavioral, social or emotional, or special education) and “typical”

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children work together in classrooms and playgrounds, each and all respected for who they are, the gifts they bring to the world and what they are learning.

Children learn and practice justice and compassion every day. One graduate of TFS, on starting first grade, reported that the big-kid school was different from TFS because not too many people “had justice in their hearts”—a remarkable observation for a six-year-old! Each classroom grows a garden and learns lessons of the interdependent web of all existence. Children learn to take responsibility for their behavior and to actively solve both academic and social problems in their lives. For more about the programs, visit [www.tfsphx.org](http://www.tfsphx.org).

Each year 65 children and their families prepare for future success in school and community. In addition to accredited classes, TFS offers comprehensive behavioral, social, emotional and special education services as needed all day and year around. About half of the families need tuition assistance. Of course, as the economy worsened, the need for assistance went up and the scholarship fund is stretched thin and stressed. Our Share the Plate gift will help ensure that TFS has the resources to provide family strengthening programs through the year.

## President's Report

Recently a congregation member asked me, “How are we doing? What grade would you give us?” Without hesitation I said, “An A!”

After 18 months as a Board member I can already look back at some great accomplishments. With respect to the Board, we have made significant progress at defining and documenting the roles of our minister and board. We have a new congregation mission. There are people dedicated to putting the last pieces in place that will position us to really focus on how to achieve our mission: a strategic plan and monitoring policies.

With respect to the direction the congregation is taking, that seems pretty strong. We have leaders really committed to discerning our key priorities using an inclusive, thoughtful process. We do have opportunities to explore. For example, I'd like to see us become more multicultural but don't know how to do that (yet). I'd like to see us find a way to fund additional staff positions to support our growing congregation. I'm not sure just how we can encourage more spiritual growth. These are all items to be considered (along with *your* ideas) for a strategic plan and we need to put the plan in place before we can move forward in a meaningful way. We need to establish things like goals, targets and timelines so we know the path we're on and whether we are straying from it.

Looking at the larger congregation and how it is functioning, my sense is that while we always have room for improvement, we're pret-

ty strong here too. In the course of my 30+ years at this congregation, I'm not sure I have seen better days. Finances are better, our committees are active and our community visibility (locally and within our denomination) is very high. Our Sunday attendance is growing. Our staff members are more than capable and routinely seem to deliver the impossible. Where there have been issues in the functioning of the congregation's operations, they seem to have been dealt with fairly and with respect.

Of course, this is one person's perspective, based on observation and information reported by others. It is admittedly subjective and it would be hard for me to defend some of my conclusions in the face of someone else's competing experiences.

This points out the strong need we have for a robust system to monitor our congregation's health. If we want to understand our strengths so that we can use them to achieve our goals, we need to have more than feelings. If we want to identify opportunities to do better, we need a system to bring them to light. The monitoring should encompass performance against both strategic goals and operational policies.

I'm hoping that this can be the gift of our current Board to the congregation. I'm optimistic. When someone wonders how we are doing, I want it to be clear in a way that is rooted in congregational consensus about what is important and what we commit to do together.

2011 promises to be a year that it can happen!

Paula Kulina, Board President

## Minister's Musings

As we enter the holiday season, a time of giving, a time for family, a time of hope, a time for community, I share these words of the poet May Sarton, who wrote:

"I would like to believe when I die that I have given myself away like a tree that sows seeds every spring and never counts the loss, because it is not loss, it is adding to future life. It is the tree's way of being. Strongly rooted, perhaps, but spilling out its treasure on the wind."

Do you ever feel tired of giving—too worn out, too empty to give? Sometimes when this time of year approaches, even before it begins, I feel like I have already given away my last seeds. In these moments, contemplating the holidays seems daunting rather than celebratory. Even though we live in the desert, we still feel the sun drawing away from our side of the planet. Even in our sunny valley, that change from summer's intensity can lead our bodies and spirits to wane in energy, to feel drained, to think in terms of scarcity, rather than abundance.

Yet, this is just the reality that the holiday seasons try to remedy. Many people experience seasonal affective disorder and feel sad during this time of year. Holidays draw to mind our memories of loved ones and sometimes our grief. The season's greetings of hope and joy are not necessarily natural to this season. The stories, the candles, the celebrations are meant to inspire and reminds us of generosity, compassion for others, and hope for ourselves and the world, especially through the long nights of winter.

This holiday, I am mourning my Uncle Jim, who died just a few months ago. I called him a few days before he died, while he was in hospice at home, to say goodbye. I shared with him some of the things that I would always remember about him. A few of the tricks he played on my siblings and me as kids, the pin-ball machine and running around his house at the holidays, but most importantly my knowledge of his mission trips.

My uncle was an optometrist, and every few years, there would be an eye glasses collection at his congregation in Tennessee, then a mission trip where he would provide free eye exams and glasses to people in countries in Latin America. Even as a young girl, I admired his work and it informed my ministry. I shared this with him in that last conversation we had. Then he told me how proud he was of the stand I was taking in Arizona. He said, "Someone had to stand up, and I am proud that you did." Those words, I will carry with me. Even in his last days, he was still giving, giving the gifts he had left, his last words, his last prayers, his last gifts of love, to his family, to the future of the world. This lesson, I hope to learn.

In this holiday season, may we learn to give ourselves away as the tree does, and not count the losses, but see our gifts as adding to the future of the world. May we see that in the ways we give to our families, our children, to others who are in need, and to our congregation, that we are sewing seeds of giving and sharing and love that will add to and brighten the future. May your holidays be warm and bright.

Love,  
Susan

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**These Unitarian Universalists, whose ashes were interred in the Memorial Garden this month in past years, are still remembered...**

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Jo Ann Davy  
Agnes Lenore Hetebrueg Ericson  
Mary Louise Grobe  
Stephen Knight  
Robert Sclater  
Ann Sclater

## Worship Associates

As we share our journeys and grow in spirit, our most widely shared experience is Sunday morning worship. In last month's Horizons, you read about a new opportunity at UUCP to participate in enriching our Sunday worship through Worship Associates. This program will expand the number of people deeply engaged in creating worship. It's an opportunity for UUCP members who would like to explore and define excellence in worship, assist in designing and leading worship and receive training in leading services. For Rev. Susan this is an opportunity to engage in dialogue and share ministry in ways that enrich her sermons and our services. And for all of us, WA will lead to ever more meaningful worship experiences. If you are interested in how other UU congregations have approached this, you'll find information at [www.uua.org/spirituallife/worshipweb/](http://www.uua.org/spirituallife/worshipweb/).

On the UUCP website ([www.phoenixuu.org](http://www.phoenixuu.org)) you'll find a Worship Associates program description and information about expected time commitment and qualifications for participation. The application form is also at the website. Applications are due (by email, mail or the UUCP office) to Susan Goldsmith by Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup>.

We expect eight to ten associates to be named by early February. A full Saturday training will be scheduled in mid-February or early March and associates will begin participating in services later in the spring.

If you are drawn to working with

Reverend Frederick-Gray, Music Director Connie Jahrmarkt and a group of members to enrich our worship experience, we hope you will apply to become a Worship Associate. If you have questions or would like to have a conversation, please call or email Reverend Susan Frederick-Gray or WA Coordinator Susan Goldsmith.

## Welcoming Ministry Changes

When you see Libby Walker, Barb DeWitt, and Gene Cherry, please thank them for their years of ushering and especially for their faithful work in scheduling ushers for UUCP's Sunday services. They can finally retire from the scheduling aspect of their volunteer jobs! Beginning in December, Ushers come fully under the umbrella of our Membership Committee as a part of our Welcoming Ministry. Our Membership Coordinator, Linda Lawrence, has set up a link so that current Ushers can choose the dates/times that suit their schedules. It is: <http://doodle.com/99hf34tpgq2dgcr8>. Sunday morning Greeters can continue signing up at <http://doodle.com/m66sfd2cwbvvhdt>.

If you would like to be part of our Welcoming Ministry as a Greeter or an Usher, we'd love to "show you the ropes!" It's a great way to meet people and share your enthusiasm for UUCP. Contact Linda for more information: [membershipcoordinator@phoenixuu.org](mailto:membershipcoordinator@phoenixuu.org).

## From Your Music Director

During this season of darkness, it can be reassuring to know that "A shining darkness glows in me, its warmth and beauty set me free."

The following was omitted from the order of service on November 7<sup>th</sup> when we all sang this beautiful song together. Here is the text printed in full as was requested by the composer.

NIGHT BLOOMING JASMINE  
© Elise Witt, Non Si Sa Mai Music ASCAP

In the darkness, we walk with light  
Like the night blooming jasmine  
We light up the night.  
A shining darkness glows in me  
Its warmth and beauty set me free.  
There is a fire in my soul  
Its warm black power makes me whole.  
In the darkness, we walk with light  
Like the night blooming jasmine  
We light up the night  
In the darkness, we walk with light.

Recorded on MEZZANINE © EMWorld Records  
<http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/elisewitt1>  
Available as choral arrangement  
<http://www.mindspring.com/~emworld/pages/choral.html>

I hope your darkness glows brightly to shine the way for your feet.

Connie Jahrmarkt, CML

## NonScents!

### A SCENT-FREE SEATING SECTION?

You may think it's pure nonsense that we've pointed our noses at the issue of chemical sensitivity. However, here are some of the responses we received on the Scent Sensitivity Surveys completed by members and friends at the 10/31, 11/7, and 11/14 Sunday services: A visitor stated, "I was bothered by someone's scented products today. I got sinus pressure and a headache." Others reported headaches, sinus headaches, runny or stuffy noses, difficulty breathing, aggravated asthma symptoms, increased watering of the eyes, coughing and sneezing – as a result of being seated near people wearing scented products.

Some respondents who are, perhaps, unaware of the very real discomforts (not to mention health challenges) chemical scents pose, rightly point out that we don't monitor body odors, bad breath, dirty clothes, and stinky feet. These people suggest that a dose of Listerine, Zest, or Old Spice might be preferable to the problems such products were designed to mask. That, too, is valuable feedback, and we do not want to impose restrictions on those who really like or may need to wear perfumes, powders, and other scented products.

We do try to welcome ALL! So let's see what we can do to accomplish that as it relates to the issue of chemical sensitivity. First of all, to those with chemical sensitivities, we extend an invitation to sit in the new scent-free section of

the sanctuary that will soon be labeled with signs. This section will be located in the first four or five rows of the sanctuary on the west side near the piano, close to the choir whose members have been following Sunday scent-free practices for quite a long time now. If you are a person with chemical sensitivities, you and your companion(s) can enter the sanctuary through the west patio doors and go straight to the scent-free section, or you can come early through the main doors and quietly take a seat before the sanctuary starts to fill with people. We hope the establishment of a scent-free section will help you participate in the life of our community more safely and comfortably.

To those who are willing to refrain from wearing scented products to UUCP, we say, "Thanks!" The people with chemical sensitivities are grateful for this consideration. We ask those of you who are willing to refrain from wearing scents to sit in rows nearest the scent-free section if possible to create a kind of fragrance-free "buffer zone" for those who need it.

If you are someone who enjoys wearing scents, we welcome you and ask that you help us welcome all. You can do that by sitting on the east side of the sanctuary or in the middle or back rows of the west and center sections of seating. We thank you for observing these seating changes, and we appreciate your cooperation in creating "safe space" for those who have asthma, allergies, and other respiratory conditions.

Each of you is a precious part of our UUCP community. As a caring community, let us enter into this spirit of accommodation for the health and good of all.

Linda Lawrence  
Membership Coordinator

## "Harvest the Power"

### LAY LEADER DEVELOPMENT

Saturday, February 5, 9:00-2:00. Includes a light lunch. Register on any Sunday at the Book Table (back of Sanctuary). Questions? Write to [nominating@phoenixuucp.org](mailto:nominating@phoenixuucp.org) (Sandy Weir).

At annual Leadership Development Days prospective congregational leaders connect with experienced leaders and all learn new skills. The Nominating Committee leads this year's edition, assisted by Membership, Membership Development, and Adult Faith Development Committees. We will present two interactive workshops selected from the Unitarian Universalist Association's "Harvest the Power" program: (1) "Power and Authority" distinguishes between power and authority, and between leadership and management; and (2) "Keeping Distress Productive" explores how "the people with the problem" go through a process together to become "the people with the solution" (words of R. A. Heifetz). We will bring in examples drawn from our congregation.

All members are "prospective leaders," so all are welcome!

## Meditation Group Discontinued

The Sunday meditation group has been discontinued due to lack of sustained attendance.

## Travelling 2<sup>nd</sup> Fridays 2011

Mark your calendars for the second Friday of each month, when travelers gather in the UUCP sanctuary from 7:00 to 8:00 PM to share their stories, slides, pictures, souvenirs, etc. Each month, January through June, a different presenter invites members to join an “arm chair visit” to a new locale.

January 14: Farewell, My Beijing—The Long Journey from China to Tucson, presented by Chi Newman

Chi and her twin sister Lu grew up in lavish surroundings in Beijing, China. They were sent to a French School, “Sacre Coeur,” at age five to learn French and British English. At age 13, their parents sent them away to escape the Communists and never saw them again. Chi, and later with her husband Richard, lived in thirteen countries on five continents. Her belief in the “Yin Yang” philosophy helped her survive the highs and lows of her life. She was alone with her two children for two and a half years while her husband served in Vietnam, and savored the cultures and challenges around the world. She bravely negotiated with Marxist guerrillas who kidnapped Richard in Guatemala, and enjoyed the thrill of being a spy for a short period. Chi’s story is written in a gripping memoir, *Farewell My Beijing*.

February 11: The Caves Where We Grew Up: Studying Abroad in Post-Conflict Regions (Albania, Armenia, Bosnia, Tatarstan and Tajikistan), presented by Kathleen Evans-Romaine

“When I studied abroad, I was ready for life in my host family to be different. I was not ready to see the caves where they hid during the civil war.”  
—Emily, 2009

“My host brother is the best. He takes us everywhere and he knows everyone. When he was 7, his mother sent him to the store. Someone threw a bomb in, but it fell apart without exploding, and the clerk kicked it out the door. Sherzod laughs when he talks about that day, but he still avoids stores. He only shops at the bazaar.”  
—Mike, 2010

Studying abroad anywhere is a stressful and eye-opening experience, but studying abroad in a region that has recently experienced unrest or war presents unique challenges and unique rewards. Kathleen Evans-Romaine shares highlights from the experience of recent students from ASU’s summer-abroad programs in Albania, Armenia, Bosnia, Tatarstan, and Tajikistan, using slides and videos provided by the students. The Arizona State University Critical Languages Institute, which Evans-Romaine directs, teaches 11 ‘critical’ languages to 175 students each summer, taking up to half of them abroad to live for a month in the countries they have been studying. All of these countries face significant ethnic and religious tensions. Many have experienced armed conflict in the current generation. Living in these regions provides students life-changing lessons in tolerance, intolerance, and resilience.

March 11: Visiting the Islands, Lakes and Medieval Cities of Italy, presented by Joy and Bill Mee

In the late summer of 2009, Joy and Bill Mee sailed on a 64-foot sailboat with their son and his fiancée and two crew members to various ports on the islands of Sardinia, Corsica, and Elba for a week. Joy and Bill then took a ferry and trains to Milan to join a Country Walkers tour of the hills and villas around and in the lakes of Orta, Maggiore, and Como. Each day they learned about the history and culture of the area on walks up to 12 miles in length and saw some places visited by few tourists. From Milan they drove a rented car to San Gimignano where they stayed in an apartment in a converted farmhouse on a hill overlooking working olive and wine vineyards. They took day trips to various medieval villages as well as to Florence and Sienna. On their last day they explored the ancient ruins of Ostia Antica outside of Rome. Come see gorgeous scenery and historic and ancient architecture and learn about life in the slow and fast lanes in Italy.

April 8: Life in England: Two American Expats Spend Four and a Half Years in Cambridge, presented by Angela Jansen

After receiving her PhD, Angela chose to do her postdoctoral fellowship at the Sanger Centre and Cambridge University. Thus, she and her husband Greg became expats in England. Come hear about life in the UK: pubs, punting, houseboats, British travels, Burns Night Suppers, and Christmas Dinners. If you’ve ever been curious about living and working in England, and learning to speak the English language, come hear our story.

May 13: One Month in a Paris Apartment, presented by Tom Hopkins

In June of 2009, Tom and Lynda Hopkins, two retired teachers who speak French, rented an apartment in the 12<sup>th</sup> arrondissement of Paris. They had never spent more than several days in Paris even though they had visited it numerous times. The object was to adapt to Parisian living while exploring corners of the city that were unknown to them—not hard to find in a city of that size and variety. They developed a real affection for their neighborhood and as a bonus became good friends with the couple who owned the apartment. Hopefully this presentation will motivate you to try a similar adventure either in Paris or a favorite city of your own.

June 10: A Two-Month Vacation in Australia, presented by Dave and Barbara Cawthorne

Dave and Barbara traveled to Australia for two months with very little advanced planning. The only travel plans made were six flights, six cars, several hotels, and a cruise. They traveled to Ayers Rock, Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide, Melbourne and the state of Tasmania. The cruise was a 21-day trip around the northern part of the country which took them to Cairns, Darwin, Broome, Exmouth, and Perth. Come see all the incredible sights and animals found “Down Under.”

If you have any questions about Traveling 2<sup>nd</sup> Fridays, call Barbara Cawthorne at (480) 994-1452. Join us for this one-hour presentation and discussion. Everyone is welcome!

## Renovation Committee Update

The work of the Renovation Committee addresses the technical aspects of the restroom core project that is the target of the recently completed Capital Campaign. The committee usually meets on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM in Annex B. The December meeting has been rescheduled to Thursday December 16<sup>th</sup>. All UUCP members and friends who are interested in the project are welcome to attend.

UUCP has reached an agreement with the Town of Paradise Valley to have the Lincoln Drive sewer line connected to the City of Phoenix sewer system and have the UUCP sewer connect to the Lincoln Drive sewer line. It represents a considerable cost savings compared to directly connecting to the City of Phoenix sewer system at the southeast corner of our property.

Bill Sweeney of Copper Desert Enterprises L.L.C. was interviewed and selected from four candidates to advocate for UUCP during the construction of a new restroom core and sewer line connection. Bill is a senior construction project manager with more than 30 years of experience in the industry. The size of the project and the inclusion of new construction justify the professional assistance. The cost of the Owner's Representative should be more than offset by reduced construction costs.

The final design work for the restroom core and sewer connection is underway. Doug Sydnor, the UUCP architect, is working with the civil, electrical, and mechanical engineers to produce the final construction drawings. Robert Porter Construction, the UUCP general contractor, will be obtaining competitive quotations for the construction tasks early in 2011.

Details of the project may be found on the UUCP website at the “UUCP Renovation” tab. Please feel free to contact the Renovation Committee at [renovation@phoenixuu.org](mailto:renovation@phoenixuu.org) if you have any questions.

Don Weir  
Chair, 2010-11 Renovation Committee

## December and January

### New Day Meals

The Outdoor Group at UU has signed up to shop, cook and serve our New Day meal on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. If you have questions, please contact Pauline Peverly directly at [ppeverly@cox.net](mailto:ppeverly@cox.net).

Volunteers are needed to help with dinner preparation and serving for New Day Center on Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>. If interested, please see the sign up board in the back of the sanctuary or see Katie Raife or folks at the Social Action table.

## Finance Committee

Last year we achieved a balanced budget, with a net profit of \$701.13. We are doing well for this fiscal year to date, July 1, 2010 to October 31, 2010, and are continuing our efforts to maintain a balanced budget. We are pleased that the annual pledge income to date is a strong 36.2% despite the continuing slow economy. We are appreciative of those who are keeping your pledges up to date. By now, everyone should have received quarterly reports for both the annual pledge and capital campaign donations. As December approaches, the committee wishes to remind everyone that if you wish to have any contribution included for tax purposes as part of the 2010 calendar year, the donation must be received in the office by December 31, 2010. If you did not receive your quarterly report or have questions about your donations please contact Heidi Parmenter at the office between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday (602-840-8400) or [administrator@phoenixuu.org](mailto:administrator@phoenixuu.org).

## Women's Spirituality Circle

There will be no meeting in December of the Women's Spirituality Circle. We will resume meeting on Monday, January 17 at 6:30 in annex B. We invite all women who are on a spiritual journey and want to have fun and share their story with like-minded women. Happy winter solstice!

## Unitarian Universalist

### Service Committee

Since 1939, UUSC has been advancing human rights and social justice around the world while challenging oppressive government and cultural policies. Did you know 1 billion people lack access to safe, clean water? UUSC and partners are working to change this global struggle in Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Johannesburg, and Tanzania. Even in California, 150,000 residents lack access to safe water. UUSC engaged hundreds of UUs, including our own James Forrest last year, to urge the passing of a clean water bill. Unfortunately, Gov. Schwarzenegger vetoed it at the last minute. UUSC and allies continue working to make the human right to water a reality in California and elsewhere.

Information about how you can help by joining UUSC is available at the Social Action table.

## UU Holiday Cards

Beautiful holiday cards are now for sale at the Social Action table at the back of the sanctuary, \$10 per box. Get yours now!

## Guest at Your Table Boxes

Each year, UUSC sponsors Guest at Your Table boxes, in which UUs give thanks while depositing a coin or bill in the box which is placed near the dinner table. Encouraging children to understand the global issues of struggle for millions in our abundant society is made easier one coin at a time. Be part of the solution by using your box each day. Boxes will be returned in January. More information is available at the Social Action table.

## Social Action Luncheon

The luncheon will take a break for the holidays, but return on Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. Thanks for your attendance at our luncheons this fall.

## Holiday Drives

The holidays are approaching and the Social Action Committee is coordinating clothing, toiletries, non-perishable food and book drives. This year we are pleased to be working with the Eritrean Task Force to provide for the Eritrean refugee families. Additionally we are collecting for some of our traditional non-profits such as Booker T. Washington head start school. Please start gathering items and look for more details about the collection in Compass as the holidays approach. The Social Action Committee can be reached at [socialaction@phoenixuu.org](mailto:socialaction@phoenixuu.org).



### Unicare

We send out bouquets to Gene Harvey, who recently completed his LPN program, and to Kay Otting, who has a new job with an ombudsman's office. What great new beginnings!

Nosegays to Jan Wise and Joan Roberts who arranged the wonderful art show of members and friends that has graced our sanctuary walls these past months. They have taken on this awesome task for several years and we hope that this inspired work is carried on when they retire this May.

The tried and true members of the Unicare Committee met for their annual luncheon on October 27<sup>th</sup> to amend the Unicare Charter and to discuss how we can better serve those in our UU community. With so many reaching out to those in need, the task is light.

Someone just remarked that a card or a call can mean so much when one is ill or homebound. Unicare is the arm of our Congregation that is there to alert caregivers of the needs among our members or to celebrate a success. If you know of someone who could benefit from a cheerful card or call, let us know at the e-mail address below. We're good but not telepathic!

Celebrating joys and facing life's challenges together in community,

Julie Smart  
Unicare Chair

### Stay at the UUA's B&B

If you are a UU visiting Boston, consider staying at the Eliot & Pickett Houses, a bed and breakfast owned and operated by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) exclusively for UU congregation members.

Located on historic Beacon Hill next to the Massachusetts State House and UUA headquarters, and in close proximity to many points of interest: the Freedom Trail, Faneuil Hall, Boston Common, and many museums and colleges (Emerson, Boston, and Harvard Universities and Simmons College).

Make a new reservation for stays between November 1, 2010 and February 27, 2011 and you will be eligible to receive one of two great offers: A 20% discount for a two-night stay, or stay for three nights and get either one additional night free or a gift certificate at the same value of your previous nightly rate (redeemable within one year).

Please call us at: (617) 948-4679 or email to [eandp@uua.org](mailto:eandp@uua.org) for rates and availability.

### *UU World* Gift Subscriptions

Holiday shopping done yet? Tired of losing your copy of *UU World* to friends or family? Want to help inquiring friends learn more about Unitarian Universalism?

Give a *UU World* gift subscription! US subscriptions are only \$14 per year. To order, call (617) 948-6502 or order online at [www.uuworld.org/subscriptions](http://www.uuworld.org/subscriptions).

### Welcome, New Members!

We had a great group of November Pathway to Membership (PTM) participants, and the Membership Committee would like to thank all who participated in the class and all who came to the New Member Potluck on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Wow, can we cook (and eat)! We are indebted to our PTM facilitators, Terry Lockwood, Terry Simmons, and Caroli DuFresne, for their faithful service to this program. They love it!

We welcomed 22 new members during a special ceremony following the New Member Potluck. We will be putting their names and photos on a poster in the Johnson Room so that we can all learn their names and personally welcome them. In addition, their photos and some biographical information will appear in Horizons issues this month and next.

We are glad to have you with us: Frank and Janet Biondo, Paula Chang, Pete Creelman, Russell and Dawn Denault, Tobin Frisinger, Steph Hammond and Belinda Winover, Salustio and Elizabeth Hernandez, Michelle Laura, Jennifer MacVean, Amy McCluer and Steven Miskell, Aliza Rain, Darlene Ritter, Jen Smith, Jim Sorgatz, Jill Story, Trent Tripp, David Weaver, and Cynthia Wheeler (rejoined). Together may we grow in spirit and create positive changes in ourselves and in our world.

#### FRANK & JANET BIONDO



Frank and Janet grew up in Brooklyn and raised their family on Long Island. Frank worked in New York City as an Art Director in various ad agencies. He has been an artist all of his life and still enjoys working on his photography/art. Janet worked as a paralegal and a realtor. They have two daughters and one son, all married, four grandchildren. Janet has always enjoyed all crafts and still works on several hobbies, including making unique jewelry and creating large stained-glass windows. Sewing has always been a passion. Janet designed and made her daughters' wedding gowns and is now sewing for the Haitians.

#### PAULA CHANG



Paula Chang started at a UU Congregation as a child in Keene, New Hampshire. She and her two kids (Sage & Julion) have lived in Mesa for five years and are looking forward to being contributing members of this community.

#### JENNIFER MACVEAN



Jennifer is an Arizona native who doesn't like the heat. She moved to Oregon at 18; got a BA in English and French from Willamette University; studied for a semester in Paris, France; and attended graduate school in Comparative Literature at Penn State, with an emphasis in Medieval Scottish Literature. She's been a UU since

## New Members...

she graduated from college, starting with joining the 1<sup>st</sup> Unitarian Church of Portland, OR. She is the proud mother of Malcolm MacVean, co-parenting him with his father, fellow UUCP member Francis Wiget. She decided not to become a college professor as previously planned and has been working in IT-related fields for more than 15 years. She sings, has two cats, four shrimp, five frogs, and approximately 25 fish and 70 snails. She also likes to travel, go camping, and make jewelry.

### DARLENE RITTER



Darlene is a retired U.S.D. elementary art teacher and adjunct instructor for education classes at the University of Phoenix. She moved to Arizona from Southern California in 1989. She is a multicultural art teacher and author of art integration activity books for children. She is currently retired and working as a docent for the Phoenix Art Museum.

### JIM SORGATZ



By day, Jim is in charge of member services at the Home Builders Association of Central Arizona. Nights and weekends, he enjoys life with his partner Michael Hipps, dog Tommy and pet rats Danke and Bitte. Hobbies include hiking, travel and pretty much any activities outdoors. He also enjoys volunteer work and is currently a Big Brother through the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program. Like many, Jim's spiritual journey started in an ultraconservative faith (Wisconsin Synod Lutheran) that allowed no free thought or dissenting opinions. Not only did he attend church regularly, but also went to parochial school, and was well versed in the art of not asking too many questions. Shortly after high school, and especially later on in life as he began to travel, Jim started to realize that he had a very limited 20<sup>th</sup> century American view of Christianity and religion in general. He finds it difficult to believe that a country founded by the likes of Thomas Jefferson and George Washington has reached the point of intolerance we see so often today. By being part of a denomination like the UU, Jim hopes to continue on the path of self discovery, learning

more about others' faiths and working together to promote peace in an increasingly hostile world.

### CYNTHIA WHEELER

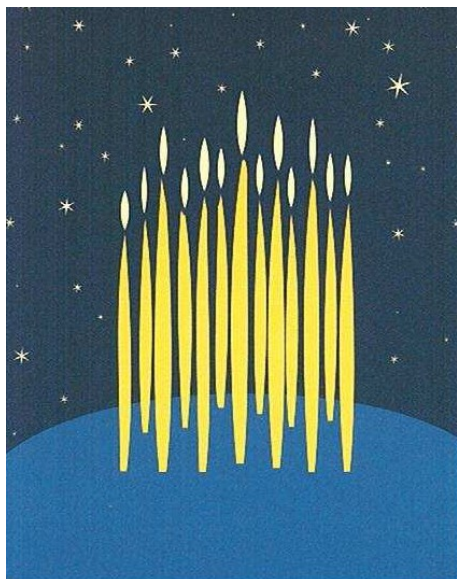


Cynthia originally joined UUCP in 1997 and has attended on and off for many years. She is a partner to long-time choir member Bob Leesley. Cynthia has been a practicing metaphysician in her adult life and maintains a strong spiritual base rooted in prayer and meditation.

Watch for introductions to more of our new members in next month's (January) Horizons.



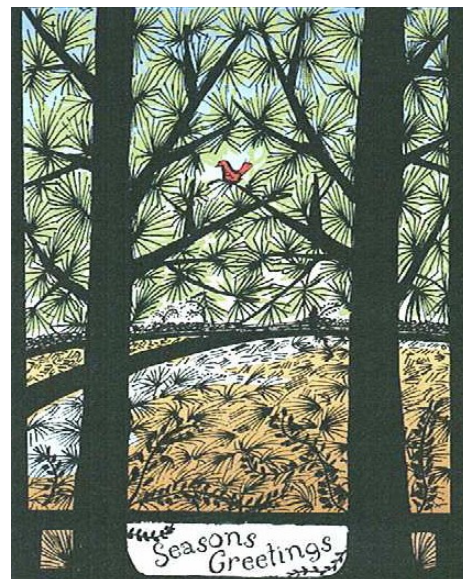
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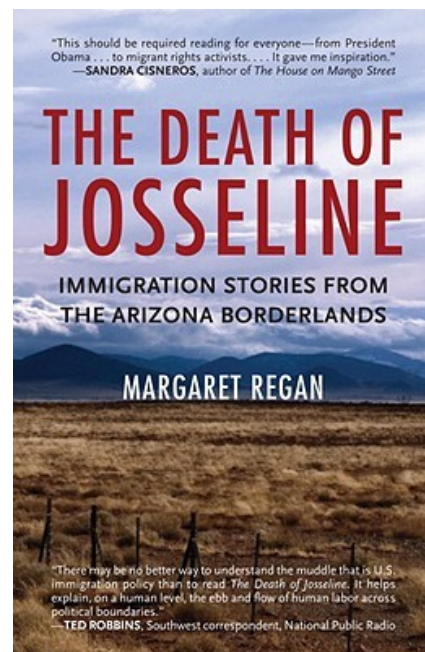
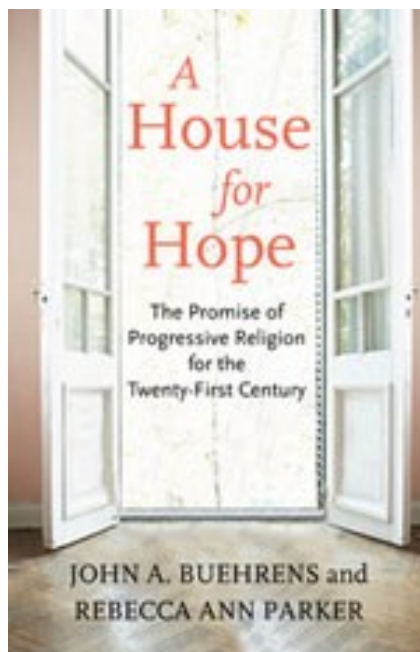
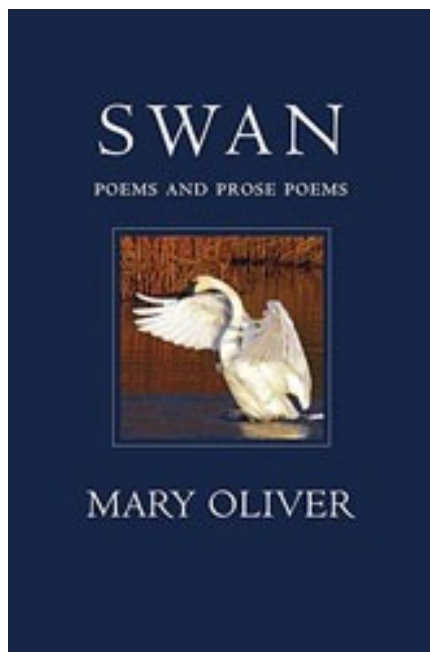
All proceeds from sales support the many ministries of the Church of the Larger Fellowship, serving UU individuals and small groups all over the world.



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## Celebrations of Life

### Sundays, 9:30 AM and 11:15 AM

#### DECEMBER 5: THE LIGHT AND HOPE OF FREEDOM

Service Leader: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

Happy Hanukkah! The story of Hanukkah is a story of miracles, a story of victory when hope seemed so far away, a drama of the struggle for freedom played out in human history. It is a story that still has meaning, hopeful meaning, in the struggles that continue for human freedom.

#### DECEMBER 12: THE FUNNY THING ABOUT PRAYER

Service Leader: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

The funny thing about prayer is that you don't always get what you pray for, or at least not what you expected. In this holiday season, we will reflect on our prayers at this time of year and what it means to pray.

#### DECEMBER 19: MULTIGENERATIONAL HOLIDAY SERVICE: THE MIDWINTER SOLSTICE

Service Leaders: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray and Connie Jahrmarkt

December 21<sup>st</sup> in the longest night of the year, the night of the midwinter solstice. We will celebrate the magic of this ancient day of mystery and celebration with songs and candles and story.

Share the Plate: Our offering will benefit The Family School.

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24: CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

5:30 PM Multigenerational Family Service

Service Leaders: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, Victoria Capon and Connie Jahrmarkt

7:30 PM Lessons and Carols

Service Leaders: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray and Connie Jahrmarkt

#### DECEMBER 26: HYMN SING!

Service Leader: Connie Jahrmarkt and the UUCP Choir

*President: Paula Kulina  
Vice President: Jimmy Leung  
Treasurer: Smoot Carl-Mitchell*

*Minister: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray  
Minister Emeritus: Rev. Ray Manker  
Interim Religious Education Director: Victoria Capon  
Music Director: Connie Jahrmarkt  
Membership Coordinator: Linda Lawrence  
Administrator: Heidi Parmenter  
Custodian: Manuel Gomez  
Early Education Cooperative Interim Director: Steffany Doolittle  
Nursery Supervisor: Tiffany Mendez  
Horizons Editor: Elyse Arring  
Office Volunteers: Larry Agle, Jill Story, Sally Boyd, Bill Parker,  
Jan Wise, Juli Harvey, Tish Gauntt, Sharon Hise, Pauline Peverly,  
Julie Smart and Dorothy LeWin*

## Our Mission

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



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