



A Welcoming Congregation

HORIZONS Journal of the
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF PHOENIX
4027 East Lincoln Drive, Paradise Valley, AZ, 85253

May 2011

This month at a glance:

1—Change to one 10:30 Service
1—New Day Meal
8—Share the Plate
8—Poetry Coffeehouse
10—Interweave
12—Ministry to Day Laborers
13—Travelling 2nd Friday
14—Addiction Discussion Group
15—COA Service/Reception
16—Women's Spirituality Circle
18—Open Art Studio Starts
18—Muuvie Night
20—Music Night
21—Sewing Circle
22—Congregational Meeting
22—Ugandan Minister Breakfast
27-30—SAWUURA Memorial
Day Camp
31—"This I Believe" Deadline
All month—If you haven't, make
your stewardship pledge!

Congregational Meeting May 22nd

Our Semi-annual Congregational Meeting will be held on May 22nd, 2011 at noon, after Sunday service (we will be on the one 10:30 am service schedule).

Preliminary Agenda will include:

Update on Renovation
Financial update and budgeting
Elections
Strategic Planning

Final agenda will be announced by email and Compass.

Notice of Election of Board of Trustees & Nominating Committee

The election of new members to the Board of Trustees and Nominating Committee will take place as a part of the Congregational Meeting on May 22nd, 2011. More news on the elections, including biographies of the nominees, appears on pages 6-9.

An Invitation from Share the Plate (STP)

The STP Team seeks your nomination for organizations that might receive a Sunday offering. Once a month a selected STP recipient will receive all undesignated funds from the Sunday collection. If you are involved in an organization, serve on its Board, or are familiar with its impact, please consider a nomination. Nomination information can be found at the end of this announcement. Potential STP recipients should meet the following criteria:

- The organization must be a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization in the US, separate from UUCP, or a foreign charity that would be treated as tax-exempt if it was in the US.
- The mission, purpose and practices of the organization must be aligned with those of UUCP.
- Recipients must have some connection to UUCP through shared work, affinity, or other UUCP support.

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Renovation...

- The offering will make a significant contribution to the program with the majority of funds going toward programming.
- Recipients must have a budget that is mindful of the balance between program and administrative costs.
- Offerings will focus on local programs in or serving beneficiaries in the Valley. Consideration will be given to non-local programs with a strong connection to UUCP members.
- Preference will be given to new nominations and recipients will receive the offering just once within the formal church year.

If you know of a worthy organization and would like to nominate the group, please see the Share the Plate link on the UUCP Web page under Social Action Ministries. The direct link is: <http://www.phoenixuu.org/?q=/node/3754>. If you would like additional information about the STP program please see one of the committee members: Judy Lambert, Carolyn Allenby or Larry Thwing.

Thank you for your consideration.

For information on this month's share the plate recipient, see page 11.

Vote on Renovation during May 22nd Congregational Meeting

The 2010 Combined Campaign "Time to make it real!" included a three-year capital campaign to address the following building needs:

New restrooms

Sewer connection

Electrical upgrades

The overall plans and objectives of the project have not changed since the launch of the campaign. The Renovation Committee has been working for the past year with the architect, Doug Sydnor and Associates; the general contractor, Robert Porter Construction; and the Owner's Representative, Bill Sweeney, to complete the detail design and file the appropriate permits. Previous articles in Horizons have provided summaries of the work.

The completed design, the final price, and the terms of the financing plan will be presented at the Congregational Meeting on May 22nd. See the separate article on the meeting in this issue of Horizons.

The project will be presented to the Congregation for vote following the process and requirements approved by the Congregation two years ago. Congregational approval will be required from this meeting if construction is to proceed this summer.

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 5:30 PM in Annex B at UUCP. The next meeting will be on May 5th, 2011. All UUCP members and friends who are interested in the project are welcome to attend.

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 if you have any questions.

Don Weir
Chair, 2010-11 Renovation Committee

Minister's Musings

How can it possibly be May already?! Soon the summer heat will be here. In honor of the last few days (hopefully weeks!) of Spring, I offer this meditation from Rev. Mark Belletini, Senior Minister of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus, OH. I will be thinking of it as I enjoy the cacophony of flowers and birds that are filling the air and the landscape of the lovely desert this Spring.

Ah, it's true.

When our ancestors spoke of heaven,

they were speaking of this moment.

When then went on about nirvana

they imagined a time like this.

When they sang of paradise,

it was this morning they imagined.

A time when all the mysteries of life and death

are blended in a community of praise,

when the bones of ancient lovers

are given flesh again in our own bodies,

teachers of long ago speaking of love and truth

once more in lives so ordinary they are

extraordinary.

Blest is our breath, in and out, quiet,

blest is our sitting, our fidgeting, our movement,

blest is our heartbeat echoing

The pounding alleluias of the distant stars,

blest is the silence that is presence,

not absence.

—"In Heaven" by Mark Belletini, *Sonata for Voice and Silence*

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

Emma La Duke Ames

Donald J. Jackel

Louise Bauer Bercaw

Wilhelmina (Mimi) Muth

Jean Berry

Thaxter Robinson

Ralph P.E. Dickinson

Margaret (Peggy) D. Wilkinson

Ki Hermann

Kathy Van Kerkwyk (Grobe)

Drum Roll, Please!

...Update on 2011-2012 Stewardship Campaign

We're almost there...*ARE YOU IN?*

As of Thursday, April 21st, Members and Friends have pledged \$353,042 to the 2011-2012 UUCP Stewardship campaign. All of this from 194 families and individuals of UUCP.

Right now our average pledge is \$1,819!

There are approximately 60 families and individuals who pledged last year, who have not yet pledged for this coming year. If they pledge at or above where they pledged last year, we will be on target to raise \$399,642. If some of those who have not yet pledged increase their pledges by 10%, we will be able to achieve our goals of hiring expanding music staff and administrative staff!

Right now our Stewardship follow-up team is making calls. If you have not already pledged, do so today. Get in and be a part of UUCP Making History!

Thank you!
Rev. Susan

What If You Died Today?

This is the last of four articles describing the UU Foundation of Phoenix, its endowment fund, and opportunities for legacy (or “planned”) giving to our congregation.

If you’re like most of us, it’s hard to contemplate that we won’t be around forever, and somehow need to be thinking about “taking care of business.” If we can get ourselves through the emotional inertia, we’re soon faced with the many legal, tax, and accounting complexities of setting up one’s estate: how to write a will ... charitable remainder annuity trusts ... gift annuity agreements ... retirement plans ... charitable lead trusts ... revocable living trusts ... gift and estate taxes. It feels overwhelming!

You may be just starting a family or career, and making a will feels like a task that can be delayed several years. But what if you died today?

As a service to our congregation, the UU Foundation of Phoenix has put together some resources to assist you in your estate planning:

- Go to “UU Foundation” on our UUCP website <http://www.phoenixuu.org/>.
- There are a number of resources that you can contact, both local and at the Unitarian Universalist Association.
- Did you know that you can contact the UUA Stewardship and Development staff at <http://www.uua.org/giftplanning> for personal assistance in creating a gift plan that will meet your personal and philanthropic goals? This is free and confidential. They can assist you in a legacy giving plan to UUCP, as well as to UUA and other UU groups.
- There is much information (and brochures to download directly) from the UUA website, <http://www.uua.org/giving/plannedgifts/index.shtml>, including charitable bequests, annuities, pooled income fund, charitable remainder trusts, living trusts, donating real estate, etc. There’s even an online will writing service at http://www.uua.org/documents/stew-dev/will_writing_services.pdf.
- If you just want to sit down with someone to talk about “next steps” and how to give to our Foundation, contact Marshal Smart, UUF President, or any of the UUF Board members (Marg Stallworthy, Jan Kaplan, Dave Walker, Richard Jahrmarkt, Ellie Murphy).

We encourage you to seek independent qualified legal counsel to look after your interests, before committing to a gift plan. UUF has provided a listing of qualified local professionals (financial advisors, attorneys, accountants) who are available to assist you in evaluation of your financial circumstance and your financial and estate planning goals and options. Many in our congregation have used these resources.

We encourage you to make a legacy gift to the UU Foundation of Phoenix. Let us know how we can help!

Annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Foundation

The annual Unitarian Universalist Foundation (UUF) meeting will be held on Sunday, May 22nd, after service. There will be an election of two board members. Marg Stallworthy will report on our current financial results. An open discussion of any other business relating to the UUF will be held.

Marshal Smart, UUF Chair

From the President

Have you heard this joke?

“What is the UU definition of sin?—

A discussion group in which everyone agrees with each other.”

We often make fun of ourselves for being opinionated, contradictory and full of ourselves. Honestly, I would not have it any other way because a community that is humorous, intelligent, diverse, and passionate is a healthy community.

However, this month I want to say that disunity and division is not an intrinsic part of being a UU, and in fact, when we are at our best, when we are in our strength, we UUs are united and loud. I have been there and I have seen it and been a part of it. It happens when we gather together as a spiritual community.

I felt the voices of thousands resonate through me as we sang “Spirit of Life” together. I have held my breath in silent humility with a whole convention center full of people at the powerful words of our ministers. I have watched for 20 minutes as a passionate river of yellow-shirted “Love People” flowed past me to march for justice.

I have seen the tears of people I have never met after our own Reverend Susan told the story of families in our own congregation who have been torn apart. I have even heard the thunderous supportive response to my own words, when I said to the microphone, “Si se puede.”

All this happened at last year’s General Assembly (GA) in Minneapolis. Some of you were there as well, some in person, others via the internet. It was the GA that began with a debate stemming from SB1070 about whether the UUA should boycott Arizona in 2012. It ended with a profound and devout consensus to devote ourselves to standing on the side of love with immigrant families starting here in Arizona. Rev. Susan and lay members of the UUCP and the Valley UU Congregation in Chandler played crucial roles in creating this unity out of diversity. I had never been more proud to be a UU, and to be a member of the UUCP (until a month later in front of Sheriff Joe’s jail, but that’s another story).

Of course, last year’s GA was just the beginning and is now history. This year’s GA is happening next month in June 2011 in Charlotte, NC, and will be history in the making. Now that we have dedicated our denominational gatherings to the cause of justice, we have to build the vision of what that justice will look like. It is an opportunity to re-examine our missional and theological grounding for doing social justice. It is a time to ask ourselves, “How does a liberal religious community make a difference in this world in the 21st century?” “Can our mindset change from intellectual counterculture to affectionate multi-culture?”

This is why I am going to be at GA this June, and why I am inviting you, the members of the UUCP to join us. My first GA in Portland changed the way I saw myself as a UU, and every subsequent GA has sharpened and defined my faith. We UUs are a covenantal community, we emphasize our relationship to each other rather than our devotion to creed. As such, it is important to strengthen these relationships and build new ones by gathering together in community. Perhaps it is a bit like the Hajj, Islam’s holy pilgrimage; perhaps it is more like the annual gathering of grizzlies at McNeil River, Alaska. Whether you are a pilgrim or a bear, very likely, you will not find the real reason for going to GA until you come back.

This year’s GA will include diverse speakers like Feisal Abdul Rauf, the Imam of the media scrutinized “ground zero mosque.” The keynote speaker is theologian Karen Armstrong, author of books about God, Buddha, Muhammad, as well as about her own spiritual journey. There will almost certainly be a surprise well known speaker as well (last year it was Sen. Al Franken and Rep. Keith Ellison).

There is nothing like being there with thousands of your fellow UUs, but the vast majority of people are not expected to make the trip every year. The UUA is getting better at providing internet coverage of the GA <<http://uua.org/ga/index.shtml>>, and this year you can even be a voting delegate remotely. I will be doing my best to micro-blog GA on our Facebook page <<http://www.facebook.com/PhoenixUU>>. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact me, or our administrator, but by all means please make space in your life as a Unitarian Universalist for our larger gatherings.

Yours in Faith,
Jimmy Leung

Sticks in a bundle are unbreakable. ~Kenyan Proverb

Our next Board of Trustees meetings are Thursday, April 28th and Thursday May 19th. These are open meetings; please join us at 6:00 pm for social time, business meeting starts at 6:30 pm.

To read more about last year's General Assembly and to see a nice picture of me, go to:
<http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/170706.shtml>.

Nominating Committee: Details and Biographies of Nominees

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce our nominations to be voted on during the congregational meeting.

For Board of Trustees (two-year terms): ·

Elyse Arring, Secretary

Diana Ashley, Member at Large

Linda Bellantoni, Member at Large

For Board of Trustees (one-year term):

Ellie Anderla, Past President

Remaining on the Board will be: Jimmy Leung, President; Smoot Carl-Mitchell, Treasurer; David Johnson; and Richard Plattner.

For Nominating Committee (two- year terms):

Jay Bastani

Sarah Carlson

Greg Holmberg

Remaining on the Nominating Committee will be Larry Agle, Susan Morris, and Sandy Weir.

Biographies of the recommended candidates follow.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



ELYSE ARRING, SECRETARY

I have been a lifelong UU, but didn't know it until I discovered UUCP a few years ago. Since then, I have taken over editing Horizons, worked on the inaugural UUCP Auction committee, made countless wonderful new friends, and felt at home in a spiritual place besides the woods. I have watched this congregation grow, both in number and in its embodiment of UU principles and our own mission, reaching out to the greater community and setting an example of how to approach our world's conflicts with grace and love. I am very proud to call UUCP home and raise my family among this generous community.

I live in Central Phoenix with my partner Noël and our two children (ages three and five), and work as a writer and editor. Professionally, I have taught for university English, Humanities, and Business departments, edited textbooks and other learning materials, crafted portfolios and resumes for executives, and written poetry and fiction. I am honored to be considered for your Board of Trustees, and look forward to the opportunity to serve, grow, and learn.



DIANA ASHLEY, MEMBER AT LARGE

I have lived in the Valley since 1953 and have been a UU at heart as long as I can remember. My first memory of UU is of being in religious education classes when they were held at the old Jewish Community Center. I explored other faith communities as an adult but came back to UUism as the only one that fit for me. My primary focus has been as a member of the choir, Chair of the Music Committee, Chair/co-Chair of the Stewardship/Capital campaigns the past two years, and as a member of the Finance Committee this past year.

I have worked in Finance and Accounting in Healthcare and social welfare organizations since 1987, most currently in healthcare medical economics. I have served on Boards of Directors as Finance Officer and Secretary in the past and am eager to serve UUCP and help guide this beloved community toward further growth in membership and programs. Thank you for asking me to serve.



LINDA BELLANTONI, MEMBER AT LARGE

My daughter Jenna and I joined UUCP almost three years ago after a long search for a spiritual home in which to grow and feel welcome. And we are both so glad that we did! I feel truly blessed to belong to a community of like-minded, caring individuals who simultaneously embrace us and challenge us personally, spiritually, and intellectually. I am particularly grateful for the wonderful RE programs that my daughter has been involved in; the members of the congregation truly 'walk the talk' when it comes to passing on to our children and young adults the values reflected in our seven principles.

Although I have been a member for a relatively short time, I feel fully vested in the congregation. I try to take full advantage of the ARE programs; I enjoyed a brief but rewarding opportunity to facilitate a covenant group last summer; and I was honored to help facilitate the sessions discussing our shared values. I hope to be able to give back at least a small portion of what I've gotten from being a member of this wonderful community.

Nominating Committee...

Professionally, I've had a 20-year career in the defense/aerospace industry as a technical and management consultant, focused primarily in strategic planning, organizational development, and performance managements systems. Jenna and I live in north Scottsdale with our Maltese Gracie.



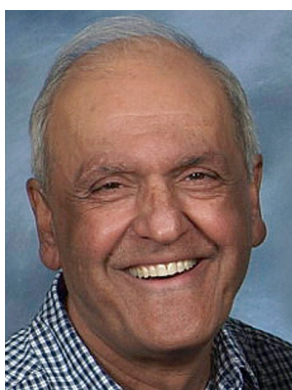
ELLIE ANDERLA, PAST PRESIDENT

Although I was raised in the Presbyterian church, I knew as a young adult that mainstream Christianity did not fit for me, but didn't stay in one place long enough to become an active part of any church and attended various churches only occasionally.

I became a member of UUCP after moving to the valley in 1969. Over the years, I have been part of the Religious Education Committee and taught Sunday school, and have served on the Welcoming Congregation Committee, the Committee on Ministry, the Minister's Advisory, the Board of Trustees (President, 2004-2005), the Membership Committee and the Ministerial Search Committee. Currently, I am on the Unicare Committee, am a Small Group Ministry facilitator and help teach English to Eritrean refugees.

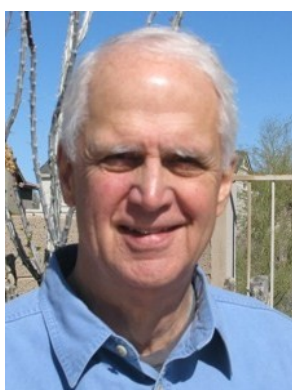
Many Sundays, I enjoy being a greeter or an usher for service.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE



JAY BASTANI

As a Zoroastrian, I first became a member of the Unitarian Universalist congregation in Lincoln, NE, in 1983. My wife, Shoba, and I were members there for 18 years while I continued my private practice in psychiatry. In 2001 we migrated to Phoenix. We were in search of a community of individuals similar in belief to ourselves but with diverse backgrounds. Jay Alagia encouraged us to check out the local UU and we joined UUCP in 2006, where we found a welcoming oasis of other like-minded individuals on a similar quest. I am currently finishing two years of service on the Board of Trustees, and previous to that I was on the Adult Religious Education committee. In that capacity, I was involved in classes that focused on understanding others' beliefs.



GREG HOLMBERG

I moved to the Valley from suburban Philadelphia with my wife Toni in the spring of 2001. I am employed at the Cave Creek Unified School District in the transportation department, and am co-chair of the Interest-Based-Negotiating (IBN) Team representing 400 classified district employees. Previously, I earned a BS in Industrial Engineering and I spent the next 30 years in various engineering and marketing activities. I have two grown daughters from my previous marriage.

I have been a member of UUCP since moving here, and have served on various Committees, including the Universal Access Committee, Sound for Sunday Services, Ushers, the Outdoor Group and the Called Minister Search Committee. Prior to moving to Phoenix,

I was a member of the Main Line Unitarian Church in Devon, PA. I feel that UUCP has become a center for my life in this my new desert home. The strong sense of community, friendship, and spiritual growth are essential to me. I am delighted to be serving UUCP.

Nominating Committee...



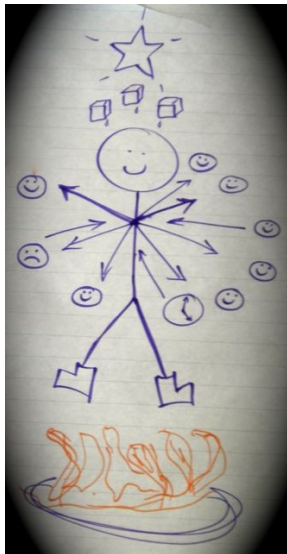
SARAH CARLSON

I am a long-time Valley resident. After moving to central Phoenix, I began attending UUCP and joined in 2003. I came for UU social justice, but stayed for the community I found here. I have served on the Green Sanctuary Committee, the Ministerial Search Committee, several Covenant Groups, and the Social Action Committee. For the last four years, I have served on the Board of Trustees as vice president, president, and now past president. While occasionally challenging, I have found each of these experiences rewarding and invigorating. I believe that UUCP affirms and promotes the inherent worth and dignity of all, while facilitating the development of a spiritual focus and center in our lives and supporting aspirational goals such as service to one another and the broader community. I have a BA in History and a JD from Arizona State University.

Leadership Development Day

The congregation's Lay Leadership Development Day (LD Day) took place on February 5, 2011. The Nominating Committee has responsibility for LD Day. The day connected about 20 prospective congregational leaders with about 20 experienced leaders. Two interactive workshops were presented: "Power and Authority" and "Keeping Distress Productive." Both were based upon curricula from the UU Association's "Harvest the Power" program.

The “Power and Authority” workshop yielded images of an ideal leader. Perhaps one of the sketches reminds you of a favorite group member. The happy leader on the left smiles even as s/he has feet in the fire, while building consensus, sharing work effectively, ending meetings promptly (apparently at 5 o’clock), and keeping cool (see the melting ice?).



The pensive leader on the right listens patiently, exudes love and compassion, punctuates the reverie with humor, is open, decisive, and shares his/her many gifts. Her/his feet walk a mile or more in others' shoes, avoiding the fire.

The Nominating Committee intends to hold the 2011-12 LD Day in the fall, with the training designed to inform the operations of groups throughout the rest of the 2011-12 program year.

What Do UU Believe?

We Unitarian Universalists have been accused of being pretty good about stating what we *don't* believe but not so good at articulating what we *do* believe. So let me ask you a few questions: What is the meaning of life? Why are we here? What gives your life meaning? What do you consider sacred? Have you adopted some rules or guidelines for living? What does it mean to live a good life? Do you have a spiritual practice? What is your concept of god, the holy, the mystery (however you describe it) and what is your relationship, if any, to it? What is your UU perspective on sin, forgiveness, grace, salvation? Why are you a Unitarian Universalist?

Please choose one of the questions above (or a related question) and submit a written response to Linda Lawrence, our Membership Coordinator, if you want to participate in a "This I Believe" Sunday service on June 26th. Essays must be typed (12 pt.), double-spaced, and no more than two and one-half pages long. Please send them to Linda Lawrence at membershipcoordinator@phoenixuu.org by May 31st. This is a great opportunity to illustrate the diversity within our congregation and demonstrate how we welcome all in sharing religious journeys.

Namaste,
Linda

Greetings from Your Music Director!

I have been thinking about Japan a lot lately. In 1973 I first became acquainted with the teachings of Dr. Shiniichi Suzuki. When a young man, Dr. Suzuki spent time in Germany. When he returned to war-torn Japan his heart was moved toward a single purpose, giving the gift of music to the children of Japan. His violin training and his insights led him to develop what is now called the Suzuki Method for teaching children music. His method takes all the ways that children learn to speak their native language and applies this method to teaching children to play the violin.

In the beginning stages, before there was a formal school in Matsumoto, teachers would travel to Dr. Suzuki's home and study with him to learn his method. The teachers would study violin and calligraphy every day, and observe Dr. Suzuki and other teachers working with very young children. There was no formal curriculum for graduation. Dr. Suzuki would decide when each teacher was ready. Then he would announce to them when their graduation recital would take place.

What Dr. Suzuki did not tell each student were the non-musical requirements for graduation. Dr. Suzuki would observe not only the musical progress of the students, but also their maturity toward responsibility for the world around them. Students were considered ready for graduation when they showed initiative and a sense of responsibility. He watched for the students who helped his wife, Waltrud, clean up after tea, volunteered for errands, or helped new students. He observed to see who of his trainees noticed when something needed to be done and then stepped in to help.

May our eyes be opened to see where there is need. May we step in to help.

If you are reading this after May 1st and you missed the All Music service, you get another chance. Valley UU's Choir and our Congregation Choir join again at Valley UU, 6400 Del Rio Street in Chandler, May 8th at 10:30 AM.

Connie Jahrmarkt, CML

Ministry to Day Laborers

Join UUCP's social justice director and lay leaders from our Arizona immigration ministry on Thursday, May 12th, as we visit day laborers and make connections with the families for whom we advocate. We will meet at UUCP to carpool, and bring breakfast and grocery cards. There is very little work for the laborers and many have lost family members due to deportation. They need help with the very basics. In the future we hope to make this a weekly event. If interested in joining us or making a donation, please email Sun Principe.

From the Social Action Committee

The Social Action Committee would like to thank the congregation for their participation in social action events this year. Most recently, we had a team walk in NAMIWalk in Tempe to raise funds for the National Alliance on Mental Illness; Justice Sunday focused on the UU Service Committee and their work around the globe; members and friends walked in the PRIDE Parade and hosted a booth at the Festival; and received donations of well over 100 used (and some new) eyeglasses which were in turn provided to the Lion's Club, which distributes them to Arizonans in need. Thank you.

Share the Plate

On Sunday, May 9th, all undesignated collections will be donated to Hogar Materno as part of our monthly Share the Plate Program.

Hogar Materno ("Maternity Home") was built in 2000 by Doctors Without Borders to provide prenatal care for very poor women from rural and remote communities in the mountains of Yoro, Honduras. It is located next to the regional hospital so women can easily see a doctor and deliver their babies there. High-risk expectant mothers can enter the Materno 30 days prior to their expected delivery date. While there, they are monitored regularly by a doctor and receive education on breastfeeding, child development, nutrition, family planning, and family support services. The women can remain at Materno for post-partum care, as well.

The program is very successful. There have been no deaths of mothers or babies in the care of Hogar Materno—before that there were about three deaths per month due to lack of prenatal care.

Hogar Materno has been supported by our congregation for more than five years. UUCP member Tony Bane-gas is currently the Vice Chair of Hogar Materno's volunteer Advisory Board. Hogar Materno only has one paid staff member and relies on donations and volunteers.

If you would like to know more about the Share the Plate Program or submit an application for an organization to be considered for future donations, please see www.phoenixuu.org, Social Action, or contact a member of the Share the Plate Committee: Larry Thwing, Judy Lambert, or Carolyn Allenby. The application can be found on the UUCP website.

To subscribe or receive Horizons via email, please submit your contact info at the visitors' desk or email administrator@phoenixuu.org.

Charitable IRA Donations

Dear friends in the congregation who are 70½ or older, and who are fortunate enough to have an IRA,

Suppose you've just made your Stewardship pledge for the 2011-2012 year. You have also made a Capital Campaign pledge, and now you are wondering how best to pay for them. Dick and I are going to use a provision in the federal tax law, the Charitable IRA Rollover. We will designate UUCP as the recipient of our IRA withdrawals, instead of having the money come directly to us. You may want to consider this option yourselves. Reverend Susan asked us to share this suggestion with you. Please check with your financial advisor about your own circumstances. You may be able to save paying taxes on your IRA withdrawal.

Sandra and Dick Schaffer

Unicare

We need to order up a whole new supply of ticker tape for all of the celebrations here at UUCP. (I am afraid that ticker tape is no longer available but hold the thought!)

Congratulations to Sarah Henkel and Mat Montgomery who are engaged to be married. Who needs a royal wedding when we can celebrate right here?

We are so proud of two of our UUCP "kids" that we have to suppress big silly grins.

Pam Weir has been awarded a fellowship for her Masters of Public Administration studies at ASU in Phoenix, which is in the brand new downtown campus. She is to complete her undergraduate degree in government from Smith College this spring. Way to go, Pam!

The envelope, please...! One of this year's Flinn Foundation scholarships goes to Van Lockwood. We are thrilled for Van and his parents, Terry and Glen, and look forward to hearing about all of the adventures here and abroad that await Van.

Anita Silverthorn reports that she is doing much better and is getting out and about with help. She wants to thank everyone who sent cards and made calls to cheer her on.

Pat Shannon's family tells us that she is making good progress in rehab as evidenced by a return of her feistiness! Keep it up, Pat.

Tom Maxwell has started chemo for colon cancer and is doing very well at this time. Please keep him in your most positive thoughts.

We keep Laurie Rosales and her "angels" in mind as Laurie recovers from breast cancer. Many here at UUCP are to be commended for the constant care of Laurie and her son.

Celebrating our joys and facing our challenges together,
Julie Smart, Unicare Chair

Call for Bequesters

Have you arranged for a bequest to UUCP or UUF (“The Foundation”) in your will? If so, we’d love to hear from you and express our appreciation!

Our plan is to begin thanking you now while you’re still around to be thanked!

First, you are invited to a social event on May 21st.

Second, we’d love your insights into how we can encourage others to follow your example. How can we insure a continued UU presence and impact in our community—insure our “strength in fellowship”—beyond our lifetimes?

We are looking for a shrine-like area on our campus to honor those who have already realized their bequests. Some synagogues celebrate their bequesters in the form of a tree of life with names on the tree leaves. The UU Congregation in downtown San Diego has a fountain made of fired brick. Each brick has a different donor’s name. It is an area of extraordinary peace and beauty. What are your ideas?

If you have made provision for a bequest and prefer that your name not be publicized, be assured that your confidentiality will be honored. We’d still love to hear from you. Please contact any member of the UUF board: Marshal Smart - Chair, Marg Stallworthy, Jan Kaplan, David Walker, Ellie Murphy, or Richard Jahrmarkt.

Covenant Group Service Projects

Covenant groups are encouraged to come together in a service project and the members of one covenant group conducted two service projects this year:

- 1) they served as Greeters and staffed the Visitors' Desk for UUCP services on January 30th;
- 2) they organized a picnic outing to the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park for a group of Eritreans who participate in English classes conducted through the UUCP Eritrean Refugee Initiative (ERI).

Both activities had active participation by the covenant group members and provided an opportunity to come together outside the covenant group meetings and serve the congregation and community at the same time. The picnic required considerably more planning and preparation. It ran from approximately 11:30 to 2:30, Sunday, March 6th, and consisted of contacting and inviting the Eritreans; organizing transport, supplies, activities and food for them at the park; cleaning up; and taking them home. The picnickers played frisbee and soccer, ate a picnic lunch, rode the train, visited the model railroad exhibit, and generally sat around talking (English!). For a group that works hard, has little resources and rarely gets out beyond work and home, this was an unusual and fun activity for the Eritreans. Covenant group members found both activities worthwhile and enjoyable and recommend them both.

In the words of one covenant group member: “the volunteer activities were an opportunity for us to deepen the bonds we have been forming this year in our covenant group meetings. For me it’s important to realize that when I give I am also receiving, and that was my experience in both of the activities.”

Dave Bellama

Welcoming New Members

Please welcome the eight marvelous people who signed the UUCP Membership Book following the April Pathway to Membership class: Merrily Beyreuther, Tenacity Chadbourne, Azucena "Susie" Corona, Justin Dixon, David Jenkins, Sam Kirkland, Michele Morgan, and Dale Thompson. Their pictures will be posted on the bulletin board outside Office 2, and you can view photos and brief bios below. Be sure to greet these new members when you see them in person, and thank them for choosing UUCP as their religious community.



MERRILY BEYREUTHER

Merrily and husband Paul recently moved to Scottsdale from San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. There Merrily joined the UU Fellowship and very much enjoyed the great people in the UUFSMA. Merrily and Paul have lived in many interesting places including New Mexico, Washington DC, Denver, Chicago and more. Here in Scottsdale Merrily and Paul are looking forward to exploring more of the southwest.



TENACITY CHADBOURNE

Tenacity is an EMS and Nursing student working in ER/ICU at Maricopa Medical Center. She encountered UUCP in a search for a joyful place to renew her heart and refresh her values. She has a tiny farm at home with laying hens, meat rabbits, geese, dogs, turkeys, and vegetable and flower gardens. Tenacity has been working hard on an ecological renovation of her property in conjunction with the Phoenix Monthly Meeting (Quaker), of which her husband is a member. They have initiated soil reformation, greywater use, xeriscaping, animal husbandry, and non-chemical means of managing weeds and pests, and brought several species back to the property, such as quail, cactus wrens, butterflies, and local wildflowers.

She looks forward to sharing the community of UUCP for years to come.



JUSTIN DIXON & DALE THOMPSON

Dale and Justin recently moved back to Phoenix from Tucson, where they developed a green, urban infill residential/commercial community called The Mercado District. It is a pedestrian and transit-oriented development, which just means that it's beautiful to walk through and integrated into the public transportation system when the new Tucson streetcar comes online in 2012.

Dale and Justin are one of the 18,000 couples who were married in California when same-sex marriage was allowed. Though the State of California overturned same-sex marriage through a ballot initiative known as Proposition 8, their marriage is still recognized by the State of California, but not the federal government or the State of Arizona.

Dale grew up in Spokane, WA and graduated from Washington State University. Justin grew up in Phoenix not far from UUCP and attended Arcadia High School and graduated from Bennington College in Vermont. They don't have any children but are considering adoption. If you have any helpful information regarding adoption they would love to hear from you. Currently, Dale is working for Walsworth Publishing Company and Justin is writing a screenplay.

New Members...

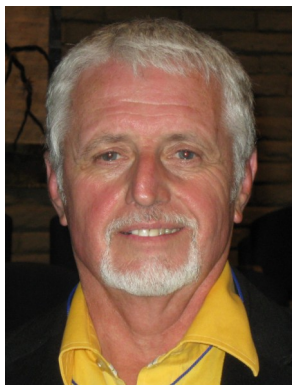


EZUCENA "SUSIE" CORONA

Ezucena Garcia de Corona, or "Susie," was raised in a well-to-do country home. Her parents are from Mexico and she has three brothers. She attended school in Mexico, and after a brief stint at college in Mexico, in 1994 she moved to Tolleson, AZ, to improve her English and become a professional. She studied ESL at Estrella Mountain Community College and has gained much confidence in her English, speaking with family, relatives, friends, and at school.

Having volunteered many years for Head Start and the Boys and Girls Club, Susie was nominated Parent of the Year in 2002-2005 through Head Start and Parents Anonymous. She served as Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice President of the Policy Council Committee of Cato Charities—and has also volunteered at St. Mary's Food Bank, Desert Garden School, Glendale Federation Women's Club, Glendale Community College, Mission of Mercy, and Reform Immigration for America. She is now volunteering at Puente, Somos America, and Repeal Coalition.

Susie is married to Jesus Corona, and they have six children: Jesus, Edward, Jennifer, Justin, Jorge, and Jayden.



DAVID JENKINS

David was born into the UU family—his father was a Unitarian minister who moved the family to Toronto and built the city's first modern church, which grew rapidly, and sparked four UU fellowships. Church life gave David an extended, quirky family making him tolerant of a variety of people and beliefs.

Art was David's chief talent, then design. A portrait painter lived in the parsonage, and the youth advisor was an industrial designer, which David also became. His family moved to Rochester, NY, when David was 15, where they were building a new church by the famous architect Louis Khan. David's father encouraged him to design the podium furniture, and his efforts led him to become the furniture designer he is today. He studied

Art and Design in Toronto, under his former youth advisor.

After college, David started a company with his UU dentist, then moved to Montreal to work for Canada's top designer, married, and had three great children, Jessica, Ceciley and Seth, who lives here. They relocated to Grand Rapids, MI, for David's best job as Design Director for an office seating company, for 17 years. After his first marriage ended, David moved to Las Vegas, and married again 10 years ago. They are separating, which has brought David here, where he has found a philosophical and spiritual home, and plans to be an active member.



MICHELE MORGAN AND SAM KIRKLAND

Michele Morgan grew up in Detroit, MI, and moved to Phoenix—temporarily—in 2008. She'd decided that once her daughters graduated from high school, she would move to a climate that suited her yen for sunshine and warmth. Michele is a psychiatrist employed with the Banner Healthcare System—a significant change from the work she did in her private practice in MI.

Sam Kirkland grew up in Detroit, MI, and moved to Phoenix in February 2010. He and his lovely wife, Michele have been married for more than 25 years. They are the proud parents of daughters Daryl and Shanon.

Sam spent 30 years working for General Motors as well as a proud and active member of the United Auto

New Members...

Workers. Sam has always been an advocate for social justice, civil rights and popular education. Sam is a labor educator, and organization development scholar-practitioner and certified life coach. The next phase of life is a wonderful canvass with a few details penciled in yet still open to all that the future holds.

Sam and Michele have been Unitarian Universalists for more than 15 years as members of the Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church of Southfield, MI. Between them they have served on just about every committee that you can at a UU church. They were so proud and pleased that the faith and justice community they found in Southfield transferred so readily to the Valley. Sam enjoys singing and community theatre. Michele enjoys reading, cooking, and the warmth of the sun. Together they love travel, movies, visiting open houses, the One Body, One Mind Fitness Center and entertaining. In addition to their daughters, they are the “parents” of two cats, Mischief & Mayhem.

Experience SAWUURA This Summer!

If you can imagine the peace of camping alone or with your family in a forested valley or together with other UU's during Memorial Day Weekend or other events, then welcome to SAWUURA! The Sierra Ancha Wilderness Unitarian Universalist Religious Association, located near Young, Arizona (elevation 5500 feet), is 109 acres of forest nestled in the Sierra Ancha Wilderness.

Upcoming events at SAWUURA:

Memorial Day Weekend—*A Time to Heal* (May 27-30)

I Couldn't Make Memorial Day (June 3-5)

rUUts & shUUts (especially for kids, June 24-26)

Celebrate Independence (July 1-4)

Monsoon Weekend (August 5-7)

Labor Day Weekend (September 2-5)

Women's Weekend (September 30–October 2)

For more info, see www.sawuura.org or contact Jan Hatunen at jhatunen@cox.net.

Celebrations of Life

10:30 AM

Please note that beginning May 1st we go to one Sunday Morning Service at 10:30am!

MAY 1: MUSIC SUNDAY!

Service Leader: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

Our own Congregation Choir and instrumentalists will be joined by Valley UU's Choir and instrumentalists. This year's service will feature the music of UU composers from all over North America. The music will be led by our Music Director, Connie Jahrmarkt, and Valley UU's Music Director, Kellie Walker.

MAY 8: THE FIRST MOTHER'S DAY

Service Leader: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

Did you know that Mother's Day was first celebrated not as a day of flowers and brunches, but as a Day of Action, of women organizing for peace? Did you know it was started by a Unitarian laywoman, Julie Ward

Howe? Come hear more of the history.

Share the Plate: Today's offering will benefit Hogar de Materno, a maternity clinic in Honduras established by Doctors Without Borders.

MAY 15: COMING OF AGE GRADUATION

Service Leaders: Coming of Age (COA) graduates and mentors

UUCP's 6th and 7th graders have just completed a year-long coming of age program designed to honor the ways they are beginning to enter young adulthood. In this service, which every year is one of the most inspirational, they will share their credos, a summary of their beliefs and values.

MAY 22: THE LIFE OF MARGARET FULLER

Service Leader: Rev. Kathy Baughman

May 23rd marks the 201st anniversary of the birth of Unitarian laywoman Margaret Fuller. Fuller was a well known American writer and part of the early group of Unitarians, including Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau, who started the Transcendentalist movement. Our speaker, Kathy Baughman, is a member of UUCP, an ordained UU minister and a Chaplain at the Mayo Clinic.

MAY 29: MEMORIAL DAY REFLECTION

Service Leader: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

In honor of Memorial Day, let us remember our soldiers here and overseas and reflect on the work we can do to create peace in our world.

*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
Social Justice Director: Sun Principe
Administrator: Heidi Parmenter
Custodian: Manuel Gomez
Early Education Cooperative Director: KellyAnn Bonnell
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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