



A Welcoming Congregation

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

December 2011

This month at a glance:

- 3—GLBTQ Ally Training
- 4—New Day Center Meal
- 4—Poetry Coffeehouse
- 4—Book Group
- 8-11—EEC Scholastic Book Fair
- 9—Diversity Dinner
- 10—Outdoor Group Hike
- 10—Sewing Circle
- 11—AFD Author Meet 'n Greet
- 11—Social Action Meeting
- 13—Interweave Meeting
- 14—UUEEC Parenting Class
- 15—Immigration Task Force Mtg
- 18—Social Action Luncheon
- 19—Women's Spirituality Circle
- 21—mUUvie Night
- Ongoing
- Open Art Studio
- Addiction Discussion Group
- Choir Rehearsal
- Meditation Group
- Walking Group
- Young Adult Group

Look for more details on each of these events and opportunities throughout Horizons, as well as in Compass and Sunday announcements.

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"I Don't Have To Wear Matching Clothes Anymore.

I'm Four."

This month, I invite you on a journey through a typical Sunday morning in our children's program. Imagine you overslept, did not get your coffee and arrived at UUCP at 9:40, late for the first service. Look down, notice you are wearing two different shoes, and make your way inside anyway. As you open the door to the sanctuary, you are pushed out by a stampede of colorful little people no taller than your waist, clinging to stuffed dogs and the hands of worried, first-time visiting parents. You decide to follow. Bob, who is 6 and in first grade, stops right in front of you, turns around and says, "Hey, are you coming to our class today? We are making time machines." "Will there be coffee?" you ask.

Before heading to their classrooms, the children gather on the basketball court for Spirit Circle and a rousing rendition of "Come Sing A Song" where you hear the two boys on your left singing the "come ding-a-dong with me" version and laughing like they just shared the best joke ever. Laughter is good, so you decide right then that you like these kids.

First up is teacher Karen's pre-kindergarten/kindergarten. Whoa! There are like, 48 kids in this class and they are all sitting quietly in a circle, taking turns introducing themselves. "I'm Trevor and I like castles and trucks. And, umm, I like that movie Cars. It is my favorite movie and I like chocolate pudding and Disney Land and I have two baby sisters and my mom dyed her hair..." As you slip back out the door, you wonder how much coffee Trevor had that morning.

Next up is a stop in the 1st-2nd grade classroom, where teacher Sara is asking the children how they show peace and courtesy to each other (which is sorta like making a time machine, right?). Hank decides to come and show you his new pocketwatch, explaining how the big hand keeps track of how many more days until he gets a new baby brother. "How about this little hand?" you ask. "That one tells the time," he says. "Well, what time is it?" you ask. "Huh? I don't know. Do you like hot sauce?" Ahhh, first grade.

You find your way to our 3rd and 4th grade group where Chloe, dressed in a Batman costume, complete with wings and a strand of hot pink beads, is explaining how to make a kite out of bologna, pipe cleaners

Ministry Highlights...

and dental floss as teacher Jen reminds her they were discussing grains and crops, and sharing our harvests. You are invited to sit and join them as they sort beans and seeds. Everyone's piles look the same – small hills of red, orange, brownish and darker brownish – except for Allie's piles. Allie has about 10 piles, each one a little different. "This one," she says, pointing to a pile with 3 red beans and one brownish seed, is like my friend Adam's family. And this one," she goes on, hand hovering over a meager pile with one brown and one orange seed, "this is for my grandpa because I always want him to have extra food so he is never hungry."

You bid your goodbyes, ignore the lump in your throat and venture in to the 5th-6th grade class. Three pre-teen boys sit huddled in a heated discussion about whether or not the guy who flips the switch on death row knows about the golden rule. You decide this might be too heavy, (after all, no coffee), and you start to back out the door slowly, hoping they won't notice. Instead, teacher Kelia catches you and suddenly you're helping her with a beautiful guided meditation through forests of giant broccoli stalks and tigers wearing tuxedos, reflecting on connectedness. Yep, definitely too heavy.

Right next door you find teacher Briana and her 7th-8th graders working on a brightly colored "action plan to help our world." You see that it lists: ending hunger, legalizing same-sex marriage, safe neighborhoods, less homework, and gun control. You decide you like their priorities and you like what you've seen today. You begin an earnest search for coffee and decide you will visit again one day.

Tune in next month when you take a peek into our junior high OWL (Our Whole Lives comprehensive sexuality education class), and YRUU (9th-12th grade) classrooms.

In faith and love,
Jaynn Truran
Temporary Director of Children's Religious Education

New Day Center

Dear UU Friends:

Our next New Day meal is on Dec 4th. As we enter this holiday season, our thoughts focus on giving thanks, sharing with others, rebirth and renewal. In the next two months, we have two opportunities to help our friends at the New Day Center. What better way to feel the spirit of giving and help others than to give of your time and help prepare and/or serve a meal for those less fortunate?

I am extending a personal challenge to all of you. I am guessing that each of you probably has one, two or three friends, neighbors, family members, coworkers or UU friends you might motivate to go with you to help shop, cook or serve. Talk with them today. The dates are: December 4th and January 1st. We cook between services. We serve at 4:20 p.m. To meet the needs in the next two months, it would only take 11 people each month to sign up. Be the solution.

Please don't wait to see if someone else signs up. Take the initiative now. Sign up today. I can be reached at 602-840-9095 or kmraife@aol.com with questions. If we truly believe that service is our prayer then we need to back up our words with actions.

Blessings to all. Have a safe holiday season.

Katie Raife

Minister's Musings

It is December, and as if on cue, my son has begun to make his Christmas list. Every commercial invokes the response, "Mom, I need that. Will you buy me that?" Already, I am worried about the disappointment from last year when Santa did not bring the most prized toy—an overpriced toy whose interest Santa must have known would quickly wane.

Recently a friend shared the culture shock she experienced returning to the U.S. after several years living in Mexico, where her first child was born. In Mexico, they were poor, sometimes barely having enough to eat. Now back in the U.S., she sees in her young child an entitlement she did not see when they were in Mexico.

I know I was the same as a child, wanting every toy. And truth be told, resisting the draw of material desire is still a challenge. How can we reclaim an appreciation for the true gifts of life, love and friendship and share these above all else?

In this season of gift giving, I remember Ralph Waldo Emerson's essay *Gifts*:

"It is said that the world is in a state of bankruptcy, that the world owes the world more than the world can pay ... I do not think this general insolvency ... to be the reason of the difficulty experienced at Christmas and New Year, and other times, in bestowing gifts; since it is always so pleasant to be generous, though very vexatious to pay debts. But the impediment lies in the choosing.

"If, at any time, it comes into my head, that a present is due from me to somebody, I am puzzled what to give, until the opportunity is gone. Flowers and fruits are always fit presents; flowers, because they are a proud assertion that a ray of beauty outvalues all the utilities of the world. Fruits are acceptable gifts, because they are the flower of commodities, and admit of fantastic values being attached to them. For common gifts, necessity makes [relevance] and beauty every day ... But our tokens of compliment and love are for the most part barbarous. The only gift is a portion of thyself. Therefore the poet brings his poem; the shepherd, his lamb; the farmer, corn; the miner, a gem; the sailor, coral and shells; the painter, his picture; the girl, a handkerchief of her own sewing. This is right and pleasing, for it restores society in so far to its primary basis, when a man's biography is conveyed in his gift."

A true gift is a communication of oneself to another or the sharing of beauty. We long to find the perfect gift that will bring happiness to another, that will show them all in one box how well we know them, how much we love them. But it is not presents that do this. It is honesty, intention, faithfulness, support, care and community. If we are honest, isn't that what we all want—not a gift that will say all this, but a lover, a friend, a family who will share this with us, and who we can share ourselves with?

May we all be blessed with these true gifts, not just in this season, but always. May we be blessed with being able to give and share of our love with one another, not in token gestures but in honest care and concern. May these be the gifts of this season.

Blessings,
Susan

From the President

Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the valley,
Our people were weary from marches and rallies,
The choir was bushed from singing many a song,
The greeters had welcomed a great colorful throng.

The holidays can bring such hassle and stress
They can remind us of how the world is a mess.
We should take a moment to lay down our loads,
Give thanks for the gifts that have been bestowed

As the solstice nears, it brings that holy night,
A winter tradition, our community's peaceful rite.
The flaming chalice is lit, our symbol of identity
The nocturnal sanctuary is aglow with serenity.

Our folks gather from all walks of society,
revealing the beauty of UU variety.
Some in their Birkenstocks and I, in my Crocs,
others with high heels or rainbow striped socks.

We are called to worship by our Reverend Susan,
and hear a holiday tale, so wonder inducin'.
On camels! on angels! on shepherds and geeses!
Even Buddha might come to greet baby Jesus.

The end of the service is the same every year,
A special ritual our hearts hold so dear,
We gather around in a great circle of light,
seeing other's faces, what a beautiful sight.

A hush falls upon us as the room fades dimmer
from hand to hand passes the candlelight glimmer.
Our voices we raise, our troubles release
Our song sings the praise of family and peace.

As the last notes fade back to the silence of the night,
We grab a friendly sip of cider in the pale moonlight.
Then off to our beds, for sugarplum dreams
Thankful for how tranquil the desert night seems.

So consider this a request from a silly old elf
Join us on Xmas eve, be good to yourself.
Your friends and family I sincerely invite.
Happy Holidays to all, and to all a good night.

–Jimmy

One of my very favorite things about this congregation is our shared rituals and communal celebrations.

Christmas Eve is perhaps my favorite. Hope to see you all there.

Jimmy Leung
Board President

Upcoming Board meetings:
December 22nd
January 26th
6:00 p.m. in the Johnson Room

We plan to be reviewing congregational ByLaws, and preparing for the mid-year Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 29th. Please join us.

Cat Vacuuming Revisited

Those of you who enjoy the cat vacuuming metaphor as much as I do might like to read Amanda Aiken's original version of the story I told in my October 30th homily. You can find it in the 2005 July/August issue of *Quest*, the monthly newsletter of the UUA's Church of the Larger Fellowship, under the title "Welcoming the Wild Wood Dove." Access it online via the Unitarian Universalist Association website or at clf.uua.org.

For those who may be unfamiliar with the metaphor, cat vacuuming is a kind of shorthand term for the "shoulds" in our lives that we sometimes unnecessarily impose upon ourselves. They are the things that we probably will never really finish but we often use as excuses that keep us from doing other things that could bring us greater satisfaction, meaning, perhaps even joy. How often do we do what we really want to do instead of what we habitually do? Cat vacuuming is mind-numbing and soul-killing and can lead to despair.

It can be easier than usual to fall into despair during the holidays. Our list of "shoulds" can get unreasonably long as we try to live up to our own and others' expectations of the "perfect" holiday dinner, gift, etc. Or our losses and grief may deepen as we enter the holidays without a job, without that loved one near, with circumstances that feel somehow diminished in the light of past memories or hopes for the future.

I encourage you to take a good look at your list of holiday "shoulds" this year. Don't let cat-vacuuming tendencies rob you of the joy of the season's simple pleasures: a cup of cocoa or mug of wassail, a walk with a friend, time spent helping someone else or service to a cause in which you believe. Analyze that holiday "to do" list and decide what you want to keep and what you want to throw out. Choose some small things that might bring you joy, and give yourself the gift of doing them!

If you're looking for ideas to help you create some meaningful holiday traditions, consider attending the December 9th Diversity Dinner where we will talk in small groups about holiday traditions – old and new. If you are lonely or alone for the holidays and want to be with others, join us for our December worship services, sign up for our Christmas Day potluck, or register for one of the covenant groups that starts in January (see articles on all these programs and events elsewhere in this newsletter). If you are hurting and need to talk with someone, leave me a message. I'll make time to listen.

Yours in the Spirit of Community,
Rev. Linda

Children & Youth Ministry Announcements

NOW HIRING CHILDCARE PROVIDERS

UUCP is adopting a new, easier method of offering childcare for on-site events, activities and meetings. The first step is hiring and training folks 14 years of age and older to care for our children. If you are interested in becoming an official UUCP Childcare Provider, please submit your name and contact information to our temporary Director of Children's Religious Education, Jaynn Truran, at redirector@phoenixuuu.org. All ages are encouraged to apply. Applicants will be interviewed and trained in early January. Pay for this position is \$10/hour. Once trained, your name will be added to UUCP's official list of childcare providers, and you will be contacted by committee chairs and event coordinators when childcare is needed. You will not be obligated to work specific events, and you may choose to accept childcare requests at your convenience. This is an easy way to earn a little bit of extra money and get to spend quality time with some wonderful children and youth in our community. Apply today!

TRAINING FOR YOUTH ADVISORS AND ALLIES – JANUARY 7, 2012

If you are interested in becoming an advisor for, or ally of, our high school aged youth program (YRUU or Young Religious Unitarian Universalists), then you are invited to attend a training session to be held at UUCP on Saturday, January 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. YRUU advisors are adult leaders for this group and are not one-on-one mentors. For more information, or to sign up for the training, contact Jaynn Truran at redirector@phoenixuu.org.

HOME HOSPITALITY NEEDED – JANUARY 27-29, 2012

We are looking for home hospitality for several folks who will be attending the Our Whole Lives (OWL) training program in January at the Shadow Rock United Church of Christ. Many Unitarian Universalists will be in attendance at the training and we would like to offer some of them a chance to stay with congregation members rather than in hotels. If you can offer a bed(s) in your home for this weekend, please contact Jaynn Truran at redirector@phoenixuu.org for more information.

HOME HOSPITALITY NEEDED – JUSTICE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, JUNE 21-24, 2012

The four Phoenix-area Unitarian Universalist congregations will be pulling together to offer home hospitality for General Assembly attendees from out of state. If you spoke to Carolyn Saunders when she visited our congregation in November about offering home hospitality for this event, please let me know. I will not be coordinating this effort but have agreed to gather names of those who have graciously offered space in their homes. Please contact Jaynn Truran at redirector@phoenixuu.org with how many people you can safely shelter, and your contact information.

Greetings from Your Music Director!

Do you like music? Do you like music to “carry you away?” Most people who make music do it for exactly that reason. I tell my violin students, “The very best times of my life have been when that violin is on my shoulder.” Every time I attend a concert, I would rather be one of those who are making the music.

If you’ve sat in the audience of a concert hall or sitting in our congregation, you have heard some singing. And you have done some singing. But if you’ve never sat in the middle of the choir, you have yet to experience one of the greatest feelings a person can have.

So here is your invitation: You are invited to sit right in the middle of the choir on a Sunday morning and just let the sound wash over you with power and wonder that you can only feel when you are right in the middle of the music.

The Congregation Choir rehearses every Wednesday night, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

WARNING: It might become addictive.

My wish for you is that music is at every moment of your life, in joy, in grief, in every day events, you sing songs, play music, celebrate every moment with the lovely vibrations that we call music.

Connie Jahrmarkt, CML
musicdirector@phoenixuu.org.

Arizona Immigration Ministry (AZIM)

ANTI-RACISM TRAINING

In last month's Horizons Rev. Susan asserted, "Learning to respond to difference with a desire to understand, really understand, is a valuable skill." There will be an opportunity for Arizona Unitarian Universalists to work on that skill at a two-part "Racism, Oppression and Immigration Workshop" organized by Minister Ron Phares of West Valley UU on Saturday, January 28 and Saturday, February 4. There will be a modest registration fee for the event, partly subsidized by AZIM. Details will be provided soon in Compass.

The trainer will be Sarah Gonzales, who was Director of Racial Justice Programs, YWCA Tucson, for eight years. Under her direction, more than 40,000 people participated in Racial Justice Programs addressing genocide, human trafficking, bullying, hate crimes, white privilege and youth activism using facilitated dialogue as a central point. Sarah helped launch Nuestra Voz/Our Voice, a Latino/a Youth Leadership Initiative in Tucson.

The first session is "The House We Live In: A Look at Institutional Racism," designed to understand how our institutions shape and create race, giving different groups vastly unequal life chances. The second session will discuss recent Arizona legislation that has impacted communities of color, including the resistance to the legislation.

JUSTICE GA 2012

I am grateful to be working toward General Assembly (GA), so I was glad that the GA chalice was the centerpiece of the Thanksgiving service in our congregation. District coordinator Carolyn Saunders and the various volunteer coordinators will meet at UUCP in December. I am the Service Projects coordinator, which dovetails with related AZIM work to do service and foster financial support for human rights partner organizations. We are lucky that Paula Kulina has agreed to be the Special Events Coordinator. She will work with others on a GA "Community Celebration with Partners" and other evening events likely to include live performances and films.

STATEWIDE UU IMMIGRATION TASK FORCE

Representatives from several congregations met once in person to initiate the task force, and then in mid-November we had a successful web conference. All who attended the November meeting agreed to another web meeting in mid-December. The medium is important as it lets us meet without traveling. And the messages are important; the migration issues vary in different areas of the state and our congregations try to respond appropriately.

Con abrazos fuertes,
Sandy Weir

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

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

Social Action Committee

HOLIDAY DRIVES

The Social Action Committee is pleased to be working with Booker T. Washington Head Start Program and Interfaith Cooperative Ministries again this holiday season.

Since Booker T. Washington has opened their own library (hooray!), they are no longer in need of donated books (hmm...). So instead of "Books for Booker T," this year we have "Bucks for Booker T," which promotes participation in the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit program. Booker T. will use donated funds toward expanding their "Music Together" program. Flyers with details can be found on the Social Action Table in the back of the sanctuary.

For Interfaith Cooperative Ministries, we will be accepting donations of toiletries, non-perishable foods, new and gently used clothes, blankets and baby items at the Social Action Table. Donating to ICM is great way to send critical items to persons in need.

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE

UUSC Guest at Your Table boxes will be available on December 4 at the Social Action table. Please take a box and place a coin or dollar in it at each meal in appreciation for the many blessings you and your family enjoy. In January the boxes will be collected and money will be sent to UUSC for projects and initiatives taking place around the world. Remember to put your name and address on the box so it will be counted towards your annual UUSC membership. Last year we collected \$541 in gratitude for our many blessings ... let's top that this year!

The UU Service Committee began in 1941 as our denomination's social action voice in the world. Today, with 40,000 members, we are a presence in human- rights work in 23 countries such as Haiti, Pakistan, Kenya, Gaza, Uganda and the U.S. To learn more about UUSC go to www.uusc.org or stop by the Social Action table.

If at least 25% of us become UUSC members (can we make it 50%?) we will be an Honor Roll member of UUSC, as are most other Arizona UU congregations. Please help to make that happen either by filling a Guest at Your Table box, joining online at www.uusc.org, or picking up an application at the Social Action table.

\$40 General membership

\$75 General membership (dual)

\$10 Student/Youth

\$20 Senior

\$40 Senior (dual)

\$100 Shelter Rock matching gift

(For gifts of \$100 or more, the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, NY will match your gift.)

Blessings,

Heather McLellan

UUSC representative

Auction Results Are In!

Dear UUCP Members, Friends & Staff,

Thank you all who donated, volunteered, and attended our 2nd annual fundraising auction: Peace, Love & Rock n' Roll. As you can see from the pictures I have posted on our Facebook page it was a groovy time! (<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10150466765107433.422726.588302432&type=1&l=0d2cd29493>)

It was an honor and a joy to plan this year's fundraising auction. I met so many new people in our community and learned a lot about people through their donations and volunteer efforts. Planning this event expanded my love for this community in the most pleasantly surprising way. I have come away from this feeling a connection so deep I struggle to put it into words. Instead of trying, I will simply say, "Thank you."

I am pleased to announce we raised \$12,400 from the silent and live auction sales. Our ticket sales brought in approximately \$2,315 and our cash bar and raffle raised more than \$500. Our gross income so far is over \$15,215 and our total expenses are under \$2,500. Everyone who won an "experience" item will be receiving in the mail this week their redemption certificates. In the December Horizons Journal there will be a complete listing of who won what items.

But wait! There is still \$930 left to be made! There are still seats left for the following fabulous experiences. If you would like to purchase a ticket for any of these events please stop by the office Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. or Sunday between services (no phone call or email reservations please!).

Friday, January 6, 2012 join Bonnie & Dave Cunningham in the Johnson Room for an Indonesian Dinner and travelogue. Tickets are \$20 each.

Join Barbara and Dave Cawthorne for an entertaining travel show of beautiful western Canada while eating a delicious dinner of teriyaki salmon. Date to be determined. Tickets are \$15.

Join Vince Waldron for a guided hike at Agua Fria National Monument to see the hidden ancient rock art and habitation sites. Carpool to the monument and stop for pie at Rock Springs Café. Limited hiking required – modest scrambling. Date to be determined. Tickets are \$25 – one ticket left!

Saturday, March 24, 2012 join Steve & Collyer Ekholm for a wonderful night of Cioppino (Italian Fisherman's Stew from San Francisco), wine, sourdough bread and a lovely green salad and Italian dessert. Tickets are \$50 – two tickets left!

Sunday, April 1, 2012 join Jack Wisniewski and Lynne Haeseler for a private home concert of Gershwin & Porter with wine, cheese, and sing-along. Tickets are \$25 – one ticket left!

Saturday, February 4, 2012 join Gerry Kato and Lynne Haeseler for an evening of music, food, and gossip featuring Brahms and his friends (did he have any?). Tickets are \$40.

Who Won What?

If you purchased an item but your name is missing from this list please contact Heidi or Jill in the office.
Thank you!

<i>Item</i>	<i>Donator</i>	<i>Purchaser</i>
Hand Quilted Wall Hanging	Barb Wills	Heidi Parmenter
Piano Lessons	Lynne Haeseler	Jeffrey & Andrea Newman
Create a Special Ceremony	Rev. Linda Lawrence	Collyer & Steven Ekholm
Pony Ride	Gary & Ann Ezzell	Karin Quinn
Necklace & Earring Set	Janet Biondo	Diana Ashley
DeGrazia Paints the Pago Indians book	Mary Dokes	Kathleen Baughman
Native American Flute	Steven Jurewicz	Collyer & Steven Ekholm
Tie-dyed Dress	Jenny & John Moats	Amy McCluer
Klipsch Noise-Isolating Ear Buds	Gary Ezzell	Steven Miskell
Professional Interior Painting Service & Lessons	Richard Jahrmarkt	Diana Ashley
Blue Czech Glass Necklace	Jennifer MacVean	Joan Gale
One Night of Childcare	Cherilyn Walley	Melinda Merkel Iyer
New Mexico Green Chili Feast	Terry & Glen Lockwood	Heidi Parmenter, Jaynn Truran, Bill Mee, Gretchen & Rev. Ray Manker, Joan Gale, George & Shirley Karas
Wirework Jewelry Lesson	Tonia Davenport	Andrea Newman
Education About Psychiatric Diagnosis	A. Land Harris	Jennifer MacVean
Guided Hike	Vince Waldron	Carolyn Allenby, Bill & Joy Mee, Andrea Newman, Collyer Ekholm, Nancy McCharen, Dave Bellama, Gary Ezzell, Katherine Desberg
Folk Music Sing Along	Dave Bellama	Janet Wise
Dinner & Travelogue of Western Canada	Barbara & Dave Cawthorne	Dave & Libby Walker, Rev. Ray & Gretchen Manker
Hand-Knit Baby Items	Sarah Henkel	Susan Morris
Music Lessons	Connie Jahrmarkt	Jennifer MacVean
Book Basket for Adults	Jay Bastani	Janice Brunson
Academic Evaluation from Morris Tutoring	Susan Morris	Lynne Haeseler
Original Song	Anne Byrne	Amy McCluer
2 Hours of Computer Support	Jeffrey Newman	Carolyn Allenby
Wine & Cheese Tasting Party	Carolyn Delany & Dennis Burges	Mary Dawes
Breakfast in Bed	Carolyn Delany & Dennis Burges	Kim St. Clair
Multi-Talented Musician	Michael Relland	Rev. Linda Lawrence
Santa's Helper	Yvonne Harrison	Heidi Parmenter
Cioppino Dinner	Collyer & Steve Ekholm	Heidi Parmenter, David Horton & 2 guests, Gretchen & Rev. Ray Manker

Ministry and Committee Reports...

60 Minute Therapeutic Hand & Foot Massage	Uli Boecker-Grieme	Jay Bastani
60 Minute Massage	Uli Boecker-Grieme	Rev. Linda Lawrence
Homemade Peanut Brittle	Jaynn Truran	Susan Morris
Rhapsody in the Afternoon	Jack Wisniewski & Lynne Haeseler	Heidi Parmenter, Janice Brunson, Diana Ashley & guest, Bill Sabatino & Dean Clarke Taylor, Gary & Ann Ezzell, Susan Morris & Richard Plattner, Barbara & Igor Glenn, George & Shirley Karas, Elyse & Noël Árring & guest, Sam Kirkland
“Expressions of the Spirit” wall hanging	Women’s Spirituality Circle	Carolyn Allenby
Cookie Welcome Package	Membership Committee	Heidi Parmenter, Paula Kulina, Tonia Davenport, Melinda Merkel Iyer, Barbara Glenn, Dave Bellama, Nancy McCharen, Gary Ezzell, Mark Wheaton, Brad Allenby
Peace Symbol Pendant	Bill Mee	Collyer Ekholm
Eritrean Necklace 1	Eritrean Refugee Initiative	Merrily Beyreuther
UUEEC Gift Basket	UUEEC Staff	Sally McDade
Brahms Soiree	Lynne Haeseler & Gerry Kato	Heidi Parmenter, Paula Kulina & Ernie Garcia, Dave & Libby Walker, George & Shirley Karas, Diana Ashley & 3 guests, Julie & Marshall Smart, Bill Sabatino & Dean Clarke Taylor, Bill & Joy Mee, Susan Morris & Richard Plattner, Melinda Merkel Iyer, Joan Gale, Sandra Thomson, Gary & Ann Ezzell, Sally McDade & guest, David Weaver, Dawn Ostroff, Janet Wise, Andrea & Jeffrey Newman, Dave Bellama & Nancy McCharen, Lisa Katz & guest, Jay & Shoba Bastani, Toni Colotte & Greg Holmberg, Joan Roberts & guest, Judith Pratt, Rick & Julie Wambach, Frank & Janet Biondo, John & Roberta Hayes
Indonesian Dinner & Travelogue	Bonnie & Dave Cunningham	Heidi Parmenter, Gretchen & Rev. Ray Manker, Joan Gale, Barbara Glenn, Susan Morris & Richard Plattner, Dawn Ostroff, Sue Baird, Nancy McCharen & Dave Bellama, Dick & Sandra Schaffer, Gary & Ann Ezzell, Judith Pratt
Navajo Rug	Janet Wise	Jay Bastani
Lunch with Rev. Linda & Gary Lawrence	Rev. Linda & Gary Lawrence	Tish Gauntt
Eritrean Necklace #2	Eritrean Refugee Initiative	Heidi Parmenter
Eritrean Necklace & Bracelet Set	Eritrean Refugee Initiative	Kathleen Baughman
Red Czech Glass Necklace	Jennifer MacVean	Kathleen Baughman
Green Fluorite Stone Necklace	Jennifer MacVean	Jaynn Truran
Knitting Basket	Tonia Davenport	Jeffrey Newman
UU Starter Library	Adult Faith Development Committee	Collyer Ekholm
6 Months of Homemade Cookies	Membership Committee	Gary Ezzell
Long Weekend Vacation Stay in Sedona	Piya Jacob	Marianne Marchese & Margie Smith
Long Weekend Vacation Stay in Sedona	Piya Jacob	Susan Goldsmith

Ministry and Committee Reports...

4 Hours of Handyman Services	David Jenny	Brad & Carolyn Allenby
Couples Valentine's Day Party	Joan Gale & William Snowden	Bill Sabatino & Dean Clarke Taylor, Richard Plattner & Susan Morris, Sam Kirkland & Michele Morgan, Jeffrey & Andrea Newman
You Pick the Sermon Topic	Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray	Richard Plattner
1 Week Vacation Stay in Payson	Lydia Yanak	Carolyn Allenby
Classic Piano Concert & Wine Tasting	Joanne & Leroy Michael	David Ouimette & Diane Mote, Kathleen Baughman & guest, Paula Kulina & Ernie Garcia, Gerry Kato & guest, Ellie Anderla & guest, Diana Ashley & guest
Deep Relaxation Hypnosis Session	Rev. Linda Lawrence	Marianne Marchese
1 Week Vacation Stay in Ruidoso, New Mexico	Paula Kulina & Ernie Garcia	Karin Quinn
1 Week Vacation Stay in Ruidoso, New Mexico	Paula Kulina & Ernie Garcia	Don Weir
Americana Songs & Entertainment	Igor Glenn	Steven Miskell & Amy McCluer
2 Nights in Cabin in Munds Park	Lee & Marc Spencer	Kathleen Baughman
Hanukkah Dinner	Richard Plattner & Susan Morris	Carolyn & Brad Allenby, Elyse & Noël Årring & guest, Joan Gale & Bill Snowden, Connie & Richard Jahrmarkt

Diversity Dinner – Friday, December 9, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

WINTER HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

Please join us for our potluck dinner and discussion of our own winter holiday traditions, be it Winter Solstice, Kwanzaa, Christmas, Hanukkah or another tradition. Let's talk about your favorite winter holiday and how you celebrate. Is your celebration the way it has always been, or has it changed over time? What have been your ways of celebrating with young children at home and as empty-nesters? It should be a fun evening for all!

UUCP members *of all ages* are warmly invited to join in our small group discussions. For the potluck in the Johnson Room, please bring a dish according to this breakout: last names A-F Drinks; G-L Main dish; M-R Side dish or chips; S-Z Dessert. We ask that you bring your own reusable plates, cups and utensils in an effort to reduce waste. Hope to see you there!

Second Annual Couples' Enrichment Program

The Adult Faith Development and Right Relations Ministries are again offering the couples' enrichment program. Last year's program was a success with participants stating they learned many helpful communication skills and how the UU principles can be used to enhance their relationship. The program will be given by Bill Sabatino and Dean Clarke Taylor and is open to both mixed and same-sex couples. It will be held six weeks on successive Thursdays from February 2 through March 8, from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at UUCP.

The class is limited to eight couples and since we had a wait list last year you may want to sign up early. To sign up, see Gene Cherry and Sandy Thompson at the back of the sanctuary beginning December 6 between services. You can also contact Bill at 516-679-6929 or awsabatino@aol.com or Dean at 480-310-0661 or deanclarketaylor@hotmail.com.

Unitarian Universalist Foundation

Already tired of holiday shopping?

Want an easy way to remember the special people on your list?

With the holidays almost upon us, we have a great suggestion for gift-giving: Why not provide the person who already “has everything” a permanent place in the UU Foundation’s new Memory Book by making a donation in their honor? We’ll dedicate a special page to your honoree (and you) and send a holiday card to your loved one telling them of your thoughtfulness. You’ll be giving a lasting gift to someone special and helping secure UUCP’s future by donating to its endowment fund. This is also a lovely way to remember those friends and family members who are no longer with us but are especially missed at holiday time.

Please note: Because of some serious confusion on the part of the IRS, the UUF is *temporarily* unable to provide tax-exempt status for contributions made directly to the Foundation. We’ve been promised the situation will be corrected within the next 30 days, but until that time you’ll need to write your UUF contribution checks to the “UU Congregation of Phoenix”—just remember to put “Foundation” on the memo line. Your donation will be held in a separate UUCP account until the Foundation’s tax situation is corrected, and your donation will definitely be tax-exempt.

Did you know that if you are a member of UUCP, you are also a member of the UU Foundation? Our annual meeting is held in conjunction with UUCP’s annual meeting, usually near the end of May or in early June, and you are eligible to vote in both. The UUF contributes a significant amount to our annual UUCP budget, has more than once provided funds for congregational emergencies (like an air conditioning breakdown in mid-summer!) and, more recently, has meant we had the necessary security for UUCP’s building renovation loan.

If you have questions, you may call or e-mail any of the UUF Board members: Ellie Murphy, president, Marg Stallworthy, treasurer, Jan Kaplan, secretary, Richard Jahrmarkt, Marshal Smart, and Dave Walker.

Let’s Walk and Talk in Support of Our Families and UUCP

Be-the-Walk is coming early in January. Let’s exercise our bodies and conversational skills and have fun raising \$10,000 for UUCP. Be-The-Walk means restoring balance and slow-time in our lives, sharing our journeys and spirits with each other and growing and having fun together. The simple act of walking and talking together will change our lives and our children’s lives for the better. Simultaneously, we will be raising funds for UUCP.

Be-the-Walk is a walking marathon where parent-child teams sign up to walk three times a week for 30 minutes each walk, for a minimum of 39 walks. Teams will ask family and community friends to participate as walk sponsors by pledging support. (If each walking team signs up 10 sponsors who pledge \$ 0.50 per walk, and if 50 teams participate, we will have raised \$9,750 for UUCP.) The walking rules are simple: *no electronics*. Walkers are forbidden to use cell phones or music players. Cell phones may be carried for emergency use only.

Be-The-Walk has flexible participation rules, making it open to non-walkers, those without family, and even adult teams who need more in-person conversations in their lives.

Have questions? Want to help? Ready to sign up now?

Email Jeff Newman at BeTheWalk@gmail.com.

Traveling 2nd Fridays 2012

Curious about Traveling 2nd Fridays? Come learn about other cultures and far-off lands as UUCP members and guests share about their adventures in Shanghai, Brazil and other foreign locales. Join us the second Friday of each month from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the UUCP sanctuary.

January 13: *Escape to Shanghai* with Dinah Schwarz

There is no place to hide! We have to run! But where can we go? Who will welcome us? Who will allow us to live among them in peace? Hitler and his brown shirts have been hunting and murdering us. We must leave. This is the story of my parents and 20,000-plus refugees from the Holocaust.

February 10: *Ethiopia: A Land of Beauty, History and Surprises* with Dave Bellama & Nancy McCharen

The Jews first settled in Ethiopia in 700-800 BC; the Christians came as early as 300 AD (well before going to many parts of Europe); the Muslims came in 700 AD, and all of these were then grafted onto the traditional religions and customs of the region. It all makes for a fascinating picture in a land that claims an imperial monarchy dating back to King Solomon, ancient churches carved from a single piece of rock, a capital 8500 feet above sea-level, the source of the Nile, its own longstanding alphabet and literature, a 15-year modern Communist dictatorship, and a landscape that ranges from forest to high mountains to agricultural breadbaskets to desert. Come and hear about this unusual land.

March 9: *Malta, the Oldest Place* with Walt & Ruth Pinkus

In 1998, Walt and Ruth were scheduled to experience their first Elderhostel, in Assisi, Italy. An earthquake caused the cancellation of that program, and at the last minute they were switched to a program in Malta on the same dates. It was the luckiest of accidents. In the course of the two-week program they learned that tiny Malta contains the oldest freestanding building on earth, among many other ancient monuments, and has often been the key to the history of the area during thousands of years. Without Malta the Allies might well have lost WWII! Being professional photographers, the Pinkuses documented everything they saw, from ancient temples through medieval ramparts to the secret WWII war rooms. Come and see their slides. You may want to visit Malta yourself!

April 13: *Family, Food, & Friends* with Kristina Efimenko

That was the title Kristina thought she would name her book about one of the most special events of her life. It was her first visit to Ukraine, the place where her husband, Alex, was born; and for Alex, it was his first return to Ukraine since he was a one-year-old baby. His parents had left Ukraine during World War II, taking only their baby, a few special things, and some family photos. Alex and Kristina's first visit to Ukraine was in 1989 with a tour group. It had not been considered safe for people to go to the Soviet Union before this time, if they had been born there. Riding on the train into Ukraine was an emotional experience, seeing one's homeland with adult eyes, and later on walking the streets of a Ukrainian city and hearing one's native language. Kristina has all her life been interested in all things Slavic, and getting her BA in Russian in 1972, she had always wanted to see what life was like for the people living in the Soviet Union. Now, at last she had the chance to see Ukraine, one of the 15 republics of the former S.U. They will share with you this very special experience in their lives. Stories will be told and slides and videos shown to let you see inside a Ukrainian home, see nature scenes, meet people, and taste typical food. The year 1989 was a pivotal year for the world when the S.U. broke up, and personally for Alex and Kristina. They returned once more together with their children, and Alex returned later as a translator for Hughes Technical Services for the purpose of dismantling nuclear weapons.

May 18: *Three Weeks in Buenos Aires, the Patagonia Glaciers, and the Lake Country* with Bill & Joy Mee

In December 2001, Bill and Joy Mee visited their son who had been living in Buenos Aires for six months attending university classes. They spent the first week visiting various new and old parts of Buenos Aires, taking

Tango lessons and dancing at *milongas*, and viewing it both as tourists and urban planners. They flew to El Calafate in southern Argentina with their son and spent a few days at Los Nostros, a resort overlooking the Moreno glacier. See photos of this glacier, which they hiked on, and others where they attended lamb barbecues out in the wild areas. From there they flew to Bariloche with its beautiful lakes, snow-capped mountains and gorgeous yellow and purple flowers in bloom everywhere. From a base at the Llao Llao, a famous historic hotel, they toured the area by rented car and boat to see many scenic locations and had lots of adventures. Their son, Nathan, who speaks fluent Spanish was able to arrange some trips such as one to a special forest on a commercial fishing boat that tourists would not ordinarily do. The last two days were spent on an *estancia* outside of Buenos Aires as the government collapsed and people fled the country. There they rode horses and learned about the life of rich expatriates restoring an ancient estate. They ate outside with turkeys in the trees and a variety of animal and tree species around them.

June 8: *Sampling the Beauty and History of Old and Modern Brazil* with Mike Peterson

Mike Peterson describes his visit to Brazil in September 2008. The journey starts in Rio de Janeiro with its beautiful beaches, mountains, historical places, city scenes and other famous sites. Then we go on to Petropolis, a nearby small mountain town, for a change from tropical Rio. On to Iguassu Falls, 600 miles inland, to see one of the world's greatest waterfall areas. It is impressive for its sheer size and the number of waterfalls. We continue to the city of Salvador, Brazil's first capital. The large 16th century core of the city is a World Heritage Site, preserving the colonial capital's architecture and ambience beside the modern city of Salvador.

Travel with us the second Friday of the month from January to June. Feel free to contact Barbara Cawthorne at (480) 994-1452 or thetravellers@q.com with any questions. Everyone is welcome!

Outdoor Group

The Outdoor Group is busy planning events both on and off the trail. At our last planning potluck, we planned the hikes from our New Year's Day hike and potluck through June of 2012. For a great way to start off the New Year, plan to join the group for a hike in the Phoenix Mountain Preserve on January 2nd and a potluck at a nearby clubhouse. The camaraderie and fresh air will do wonders for starting off the new year!

On February 5th the outdoor group will provide the meal for the New Day Center. This is a service with a smile for all involved.

For details on all of the Outdoor Group activities check out the display on the table at the rear of the sanctuary or contact theronster@cox.net or sambasmart@cox.net for a hike schedule.

Men's Group Forming

My name is Michael Relland and I would like to start a men's group here at UUCP. I am a new member but have worked in UU churches for 10 years. Below is a description of what I'm thinking. You can find me between services or contact me at: mjvielle@yahoo.com, 602-321-8991.

Men's Group:

The Men's Group at UUCP will allow men to deepen their identity through common activity, sharing and listening to each other's needs. We will provide a space that encourages strong ties between men, where we discover pieces of ourselves that might otherwise lie hidden and unspoken.

Construction is Underway!

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

A construction ground-breaking ceremony was held at the UUCP on Sunday, November 6th. We had a great turnout and support from members and friends.



Construction work began this month. The construction trailer and fencing have been installed and initial site preparation work was completed. The Town of Paradise Valley approved the traffic control permit on November 15, 2011 and digging in Lincoln Drive was scheduled to begin the week of November 21st. Work in December will include continued sewer digging through the campus and the laying of the foundation for the restrooms.

Please watch the Compass weekly newsletter for announcements of construction activity and any facility closures. More important, please look at any information signs when you are on the UUCP campus. Although all efforts are being taken to reduce impact on programs, a certain amount of inconvenience (and dust) cannot be avoided.

Details of the project may be found on the UUCP website at the “UUCP Renovation” tab. Please feel free to contact the Renovation Project Team at renovation@phoenixuucp.org or the office if you have any questions.

Don Weir
Chair, 2010-12 Renovation Project

Community Flavor in the Sanctuary This Winter

One of the traditions that has developed over the years in our congregation is decorating the sanctuary for the winter holidays. This year, the Sanctuary Team wants to add some community flavor to the tradition. On the first Saturday in December (12/3), we’ll begin decorating the sanctuary and we want to include your own hand-made items to brighten our walls. We are looking for wreaths and other holiday season artwork that is ready to hang. Your art *must* be identified so it can be returned to you in January. Please begin gathering and creating as we look to brighten our sanctuary this holiday season. We look forward to melding your traditions with ours and seeing how our community tradition evolves. Many thanks to several members of previous Sanctuary Teams for helping to motivate and organize this effort.

UUCP Finance Committee

We are doing well for this fiscal year to date, July 1, 2011 to October 31, 2011 and are pleased that the pledge income to date is a strong 35%. We appreciate those who have pledged and are continuing to support their pledge amount. Thanks to Heidi for her efforts with the auction that yielded \$15,000. We are very pleased to announce that the November Pathway to Membership class has pledged \$5,000 to support the congregation. Please thank the new members and thank them for their commitment. We continue to be on path for a balanced budget this fiscal year. As of November 22, the budget is operating at a slight surplus of \$1,500.

The quarterly reports have been mailed; please contact the office if you did not receive your statement. We remind members that pledges can be automatically paid on a monthly basis if you wish. Also, the end of the year is rapidly approaching. If you wish to have any contribution included for tax purposes as part of the 2011 calendar year, the donation must be received in the office by December 31, 2011. If you have a question about the statements or want to set up automatic payments please call Heidi in the office between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday (602-840-8400, ext. 202) or send an email to administrator@phoenixuu.org.

More Covenant Groups Coming Soon

Deepen your spirituality. (Are you wondering what Spirituality is?) Deepen your relationships with other UUs. (Would you like conversations beyond coffee hour?) Do you experience spirituality through reading and writing? Would you like to talk about universally human themes? (Compassion, doubt, our gifts, who am I?) Join a covenant group. We may not have answers, but we journey together.

Beginning in January:

1st & 3rd Sundays, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Ruth Braunstein & Lydia Yanak, facilitators. Meets in leader's homes in midtown Scottsdale. (Allergy alert: These homes have cats and/or dogs.) Begins January 15th.

2nd & 4th Sundays, 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Meets at UUCP. This group is intended for parents of children of all ages – infants through teens. Although this is a group specifically for parents because childcare is provided, it will address a variety of topics related to universal issues and spiritual growth/development. Begins January 8th. (Group may be cancelled if facilitators are not found.)

2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Gary Lawrence, facilitator. Meets at UUCP. Focus on spiritual exploration through fiction reading and/or writing. Begins January 10th.

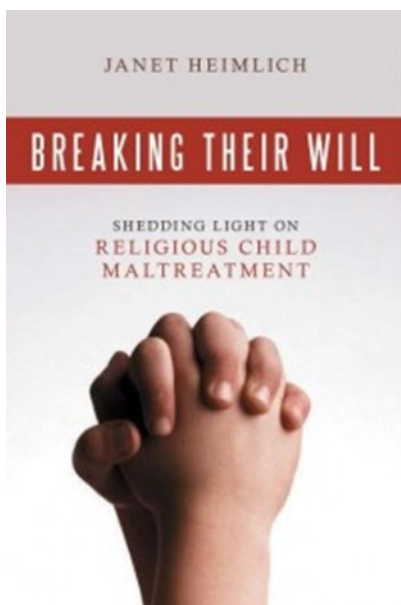
2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Linda Lawrence, Facilitator. Meets near 60th St. and Bell Rd. in Margaret Herrick's home. Note: If you are looking for a less physically challenging venue, this home has only one small step at the door and assistance will be available to negotiate step. Wheelchair accessible bathroom. Begins January 10th.

1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Glen & Terry Lockwood, facilitators. Meets at the Lockwood's home. (Allergy Alert: This home has cats and dogs.) Begins January 18th.

To join a group, email covenantgroups@phoenixuu.org



Author Book Signing Event at UUCP

Breaking Their Will: In this revealing, disturbing, and thoroughly researched book, award-winning journalist Janet Heimlich exposes a dark side of faith that most Americans do not know exists or have ignored for a long time—religious child maltreatment.

While fully acknowledging that religion can be a source of comfort, strength, and inspiration to many young people, Ms. Heimlich makes a compelling case that, regardless of one's religious or secular orientation, maltreatment of children under the cloak of religion can never be justified and should not be tolerated.

Ms. Heimlich is hosting this public event at UUCP on Sunday, December 11, at 12:30 p.m. in the Johnson Room.

Share the Plate for December

On December 18th our monthly Share the Plate program will benefit The Arizona Interfaith Alliance for Worker Justice. The mission of this self-help and volunteer organization is to “challenge workplace injustice in partnership with the working men and women of Arizona and in collaboration with faith and labor communities, ethical business owners, and government agencies.”

Arizona's only worker rights center, AIAWJ helps Arizona working women and men learn to take charge of solving their own workplace issues with the support and education provided by three part-time training staff. Volunteer support is welcomed. Information on the Wage Theft Campaign and other initiatives is available at www.azworkerjustice.com. Members of UUCP have taken the center's “Spanish for Social Justice” classes, and helped with fundraisers for clients of the center who need special help. The Center is in a situation of financial stress as it applies for grants to replace funds lost when a supporting denomination withdrew its funding in objection that “Third Space” was meeting at the center. Third Space identifies as “queer and migrant: fighting for the right to be whole.”

Thank you for your generosity.

Sharetheplate@phoenixuu.org

Christmas Potluck

If you would be interesting in participating in a potluck in the Johnson Room following the Christmas morning service, please let Rev. Linda Lawrence know

GASLAND



mUUVie Night

Gasland

Wednesday, December 21, 6:00 p.m.

The Johnson Room

In the debate over energy resources, natural gas is often considered a “lesser-of-evils.” While it does release some greenhouse gases, natural gas burns cleaner than coal and oil, and is in plentiful supply—parts of the U.S. sit above some of the largest natural gas reserves on Earth. But a new boom in natural gas drilling, a process called “fracking,” raises concerns about health and environmental risks. When filmmaker Josh Fox is asked to lease his land for drilling, he embarks on a cross-country odyssey searching for answers.

(\$5 suggested donation; no one turned away.)

Unicare

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving with friends and family. It is good to have these times to remind us to slow down and examine what we have and to be grateful.

By the time you get your Horizons both Enid Jones and Helen Votichenko will be home from rehab facilities. Morton Rosenberg underwent hip replacement on the 22nd of November and is doing well. He is now a member of the ever-growing “hip” UUs.

We extend our sympathy to Michele Morgan and Sam Kirkland. Michele’s father, Joseph Morgan, died after a long illness.

Enjoy the cooler weather and the exciting holiday season.

Namaste,
Jean Rosenberg

Welcome, New Members!

Please give a hearty welcome to Bob Aitken, Lee Bergmann, Jane Christoffersen, Ken Christoffersen, Jennifer Fryer, Robin Holden, Gene Hetrick, David Jenny, Derek Nielsen, Nicole Nielsen, Michael Relland, Randy Smiley, Tom Tull, Margaret Wilson, and Diana Yu. These 15 people signed the Membership Book at the Joining Ceremony following the November 19th Pathway to Membership potluck. They are an interesting and multi-talented group of people. You’ll want to get to know them!

To better learn their names and faces, photos of new members will soon be posted on the bulletin board in the hallway outside Office 2. You can also find new member photos and short biographical sketches in the December and January issues of this newsletter. Be sure to say hello when you see them and welcome them into the UUCP community.



DIANA YU is a legal and medical Korean-English interpreter. She was born into a Buddhist family in Korea. At 13 she began attending in Seoul Ewha, a Methodist-founded educational institution for girls which included middle school, high school, and college. In 1957, she started college in America. Since the early 60s, she has been a member of various Unitarian congregations.

In 1984, Diana received her doctoral degree from the George Washington University in Higher Education and International Education. From 1999 to 2000, she was a Visiting Fellow at Harvard University in the field of East Asian Studies. Her nonfiction, *Winds of Change: Korean Women in America*, published in 1991 was a National Press Club Selection. In addition to her writing, Diana enjoys painting in watercolor, her latest discovery.

TOM TULL was born and raised in Philadelphia, PA. In 1952, during the Korean War, he enlisted in the U.S. Army Communications Intelligence, serving two years in Germany. He returned to college in 1955 and moved to North Carolina to attend UNC Law School at Chapel Hill. He passed the bar in 1961 and spent the next 15 years in various large bank trust departments, specializing in taxes and estate planning. Tom met Diana Yu in Raleigh, NC, and he fell in love with her and also with her three teenage daughters. They were married at the Raleigh Unitarian Fellowship in 1977. The three daughters presently live in Washington, D.C., in Portland, OR, and one who now has two teenage children herself is close by in Phoenix. Tom’s sports are tennis and yoga.

Ministry and Committee Reports...



JENNIFER FRYER has been a UU for 10 years since she walked into the Northwoods UU Congregation in Texas and was thrilled to be welcomed even though she does not believe in God. She recently moved to Phoenix from New York with her husband James, son Bob, and cats Faye and Pearl. Jennifer is a veterinarian whose telemedicine practice connects general practice veterinarians with specialists to consult on their difficult cases. In addition to her family, Jennifer loves all cats, gardening, swimming, hiking, cooking, music, and learning, learning, learning.

BOB AITKEN has lived in the Phoenix area a total of 31 years, first relocating here in 1970. He is fortunate to have his three children and four and a half grandchildren residing in the valley. Bob retired in April and now wonders how he found the time to work. He enjoys hiking, reading, time with family and friends, handcrafting hiking sticks, and sports.

Bob has been familiar with the spiritual orientation of Unitarian Universalism for many years but only recently began attending services and acquiring further knowledge about the teachings and religious philosophy of the church. He is looking forward to an ongoing learning experience and active involvement with UUCP.



JANE AND KEN CHRISTOFFERSEN relocated in the last year from the Denver, CO, area to Phoenix for Ken's job. Ken is currently a corporate and securities law attorney. In Colorado, the couple were members of First Universalist Church of Denver from 1982-2011, although their level of participation varied throughout the years. They write, "We have two grown children. Our daughter Lee is an environmental engineer/geo-chemist and lives in Denver. Our son Jack is in his second year at the United States Military Academy at West Point." Ken and Jane enjoy hik-

ing. Ken is looking forward to doing more bird watching throughout Arizona, and Jane is slowly learning more about gardening in her new environment.

RANDY SMILEY was born in Trenton, NJ, and lived overseas and several places in the U.S. as a child in an Air Force family. He grew up in Paradise Valley and moved to Phoenix in 1962. He attended Kiva Elementary School, Saguaro High School, Colorado College in Colorado Springs, the University of Regensburg, Germany, and graduated from Arizona State University with a BA in German. He also has an MBA from Gonzaga University, Spokane, WA. He entered Air Force navigator training in 1976 from an ROTC program, and had seven years of military service as a B-52 navigator.

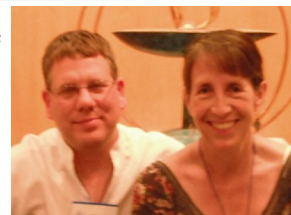
Randy was married in Paradise Valley in 1971 and he and his wife just celebrated their 40th anniversary. They have four children and six grandchildren. Randy enjoys foreign languages, reading, playing violin and viola, and liberal politics. He is presently the information technology project manager for Phoenix Municipal Court. Randy describes himself as primarily humanist, but his desire to grow the spiritual dimension of his life prompted his involvement at UUCP.



LEE BERGMANN is originally from NJ and was raised a UU. He recently moved to Scottsdale for the weather after 35 years in Washington State. He writes, "I was stationed in Washington while in the USCG back in the '70s and immediately fell in love with it. I attended the UU congregation in Tacoma for a while, especially when my two children were young, but never felt the same connection I've felt in the short time I've been involved with this congregation. I am divorced, retired and enjoy hiking, skiing, camping, diving, mountain biking, golfing, flying.....Ok, I enjoy almost everything! I am looking forward to becoming an active member of this community."

Ministry and Committee Reports...

DAVID JENNY was born and raised near Cincinnati, Ohio where he lived until 2005. He spent several years in Lexington, Kentucky where he ultimately earned a Master's degree from the University of Kentucky. In 2011, he moved to Arizona to take a job related to his academic training and met his partner, Tonia Davenport, who is also a UUCP member. Having had exposure to Unitarian Universalism in Ohio, it was a pleasure to begin attending services with Tonia; the leap to membership is part of their individual commitments to serving a better world. David loves hiking, camping and bicycling. He is especially concerned with ethical environmental stewardship. He is grateful to have found Tonia, the UUCP community and a promising career path all in the same year. During his signing ceremony he stated, "I am here because this community speaks to me. My goal is to contribute to the growth of the community."



ROBIN HOLDEN has lived in Phoenix for 16 years. Most of her professional career has been spent in nonprofit accounting and management. She has one adult daughter. Robin has been singing in the UUCP choir and is looking forward to continued involvement in the many activities of this fellowship.

MARGARET WILSON grew up in Wisconsin, went to college at Carleton College in Minnesota, was a city planner for a while in Minneapolis, then went to law school. Margaret moved to Arizona in 1984, married Gene in 1991, and is currently employed by the City of Phoenix. The couple has 3 children: Ethan, 17, and Jacob and Claire, who are 14 years old and are enrolled in the OWL program.



GENE HETRICK was born in Erie, Pennsylvania, and went to high school and college there at Gannon University. He moved to Tucson in about 1983, and then to Phoenix a couple of years later. Gene has been employed as a computer engineer, first in software development and most recently as an IT engineer at a Phoenix law firm. Gene and Margaret met each other while climbing and hiking in various parts of Arizona, and the whole family enjoys hiking and camping together.



MICHAEL RELLAND has served UU congregations in Washington, D.C. as Music Director, Director of Religious Education, and Consulting Minister. He returns for now to his first career, teaching orchestra in the public schools. He has four children, currently living out of state.

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

Celebrations of Life

Holiday Service Times

Please make note of these variations from our normal service schedule:

Christmas Eve	5:30 p.m.	Multigenerational Service
	7:30 p.m.	Lessons and Carols
Christmas Day	10:30 a.m.	
New Year's Day	10:30 a.m.	

Child Dedications: In Unitarian Universalism, child dedications are a way to welcome your child into the community and to allow members of the community to offer their blessing on the child. If you would like to have your child dedicated at either Christmas Eve service, please contact Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray at minister@phoenixuu.org or 602-840-8400, ext. 203.

DECEMBER 4: GETTING RELIGION?

Service Leader: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

UUA President Rev. Peter Morales states that if we are to thrive as a religious movement we must do three things: get religion, grow leaders, and cross borders. Let's talk about what it means to "get religion."

DECEMBER 11: HOW DO WE LOVE OUR ENEMIES?

Service Leader: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

Jesus taught his followers to "love their enemies," and Martin Luther King, Jr. attempted to live by this principle. In her recent book *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*, Karen Armstrong explores the subject as well.

In the divisive age in which we live, how do we really do this?

DECEMBER 18: FINDING HOPE IN DESPAIR

Service Leader: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

On a lot of levels these are tough times, and it's hard not to lose hope. Despair can set in when we no longer see the possibility of a better world. What are our sources of hope? When our personal lives and/or the larger world are filled with challenges, how do we stay engaged?

Share the Plate: This Sunday's offering will benefit Arizona Interfaith Alliance for Worker Justice.

DECEMBER 24: CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Service Leader: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

5:30 Multigenerational Family Service

7:30 Lessons and Carols

Child Dedications will be held at both services. For more information, please contact Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray.

DECEMBER 25: READINGS, RHYMES, AND RITUALS

One service at 10:30 a.m.

Service Leaders: Rev. Linda and Gary Lawrence

The light of hope and possibility lies within each of us. What in you is waiting to be born? Come and celebrate the winter holidays with seasonal stories, poems, songs, and opportunities for reflection and sharing.

*President: Jimmy Leung
Vice President: David Johnson
Treasurer: Smoot Carl-Mitchell*

*Minister: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray
Minister Emeritus: Rev. Ray Manker
Assistant Minister: Rev. Linda Lawrence
Executive Assistant to Minister: David Weaver
Music Director: Connie Jahrmarkt
Interim Religious Education Director: Jaynn Truran
Arizona Immigration Ministry Organizer: Sandra Weir
Business Administrator: Heidi Parmenter
Administrative Assistant: Jill Story
Custodian: Manuel Gomez
Early Education Cooperative Director: KellyAnn Bonnell
Nursery Supervisor: Tiffany Mendez
Horizons Editor: Elyse Årring
Office Volunteers: Larry Agle, 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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