



A Welcoming Congregation

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

January 2013

This month at a glance:

- 1—Outdoor Group Hike
- 6—Poetry Coffeehouse
- 6—New Day Center Meal
- 10—Search for Happiness
- 11—Preschool Open House
- 11—Traveling 2nd Friday
- 13—Share the Plate
- 16—Senior-i-Tea
- 17—Oasis in the Desert Retreat
- 18—Parents' Night Out
- 19—Sewing Circle
- 20—Build Your Own Theology
- 20—Social Action Luncheon
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Ongoing:

- Community Nights & Chalice Kids Club
- Book Group
- Choir Rehearsal
- Open Art Studio
- Meditation Group
- Walking Poets
- Addiction Discussion Group
- Theater 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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Minister's Musings

The first of January is another day dawning, the sun rising as the sun always rises...yet we also stand at a threshold, the new year something truly new, still unformed, leaving a stunning power in our hands. — Rev. Kathleen McTigue

There has been a lot of talk about the approaching significance of December 21st. Some of it opines that the Mayans predicted the world would end on December 21, 2012. I am writing this note a couple days before the 21st and you will receive it more than a week after that date. I expect we will all still be here.

My understanding, however, is not that the Mayans predicted the end of the world, but the birth of a new age. A dying of one period in history, and the dawning of a new chapter, which itself that will last hundreds of years. Given the real sadness of the recent events in Newtown, CT, events that call to mind several mass shootings that have shaken communities throughout the US over even the last two years; given the struggles so many families have been facing economically, spiritually; I find it gives me some hope to think about the possibility of a new day dawning. A time of strengthening the bonds of human community and of human compassion. A heart time, when we might come to value the priceless gifts of life – like friendship, caring, beauty, wisdom, love, community – over the purchased ones.

To be fully honest, right along side this hope, there is always doubt. In the face of persistent struggle, tragedy and bad news daily, it is easy to be discouraged, to feel like things will never change. And yet, even if we are not sold on the birth of a new age, each New Year represents a rebirth, a time to be intentional about the actions we take in our lives, a time to make new commitments about what we will value and how we will live.

And, as I was reminded recently, sometimes it is when we are in the most confusing times, when we feel lost or uncertain – sometimes those are the periods when individually we are growing the most. And it is only much later that we look back and realize that something really positive was developing at that time. If this is true for us as individuals, how much more so for us as humanity.

Regardless of dates on a calendar – whether contemporary or ancient – each day, each year, leaves us with a stunning power in our hands. It is up to us to choose how we will live our days and what we will most value and how we will make of our lives, our communities, our neighborhoods something worth celebrating and sharing. What will you do with this gift of time, this New Year?

From the President

“A single conversation across the table with a wise person is better than ten years’ study of books.”
– Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to attend a Thursday evening Community Night at the UUCP. The Johnson Room was filled with folks of all ages, kids and parents and grandparents, and some folks who came by themselves. I sat with a table of people, some of whom were good friends of mine, but I spoke mostly with people whom I had not met before. Some brought a potluck dish while others just brought their supper. We shared great conversation, good food and a fun evening. If you have not yet been to a Thursday community night, I definitely recommend it.

Community nights, I feel, are a great new addition to our program. In the past few years, as our congregation has grown, it requires more intentional effort to create the safe space and personal proximity to nurture an atmosphere of intimacy and trust in the fellowship of our congregation. Our aspirations of becoming a more inclusive community require that we are very mindful in maintaining familiarity and closeness while at the same time opening and expanding our circle of friendship.

The Board of Trustees has been very alert of the need to continue to foster conversation at the UUCP. In particular, we have been concerned that the church function in which the Board is most visible as a group—the UUCP congregational meeting—is decidedly *not* the best venue for conversation. In fact it can be said that the large meeting format and time constraints engender non-personal communication.

This January, we would like to do our part as the Board of Trustees to further encourage open and personal communication in the congregation by inviting you to a pair of “informational conversations,” which will be held to converse about two very important governance items that will be on the agenda at the Congregational meeting on January 27th: the Strategic Plan and ByLaws revisions.

Our hope is to engage congregants in close, direct conversation about our work and to gather feedback in a personal way that we cannot do in a large group congregational meeting. In this way, we feel that not only can we be more mindful in our communication with the congregation, but the congregation can also have a deeper understanding of our governance.

If successful, my hope is that we can institutionalize this type of conversation with the Board, possibly before every Congregational meeting. UUCP has had some experience with this type of conversation in the past, regarding Arizona Immigration Ministry and later about Vision Statements. This January, we’d like to converse about the process for creating the next Strategic Plan and our progress in making the latest rounds of revision to the UUCP ByLaws.

The Strategic Plan creation will be based on the Ends Statements that the Board presented at the Congregational Meeting last January, and which were later approved by the Board.

- Within: Members see UUCP as the foundation for their personal and spiritual development and practice.
- Among: UUCP is a healthy, vibrant, multigenerational, and multicultural religious community filled with committed evangelical Unitarian Universalists
- Beyond: UUCP is a flagship congregation in the UUA and a beacon of moral conscience to the world.

Current ongoing work is to create a plan for implementing the above Ends Statements with measurable and definable objectives.

ByLaws revisions have already been drafted and a description of the proposed revisions were presented in last month's Horizons. (My gratitude to Duke Plattner and Linda Bellantoni for their leadership!) The text of the ByLaws changes can be found at the following page on our website: <http://www.phoenixuu.org/?q=node/4135#Bylaws>.

The proposed changes to the Bylaws fall into three categories:

- 1) A general 'clean-up' of the document for grammar, punctuation, conciseness, and clarity;
- 2) Terminology was updated and references to communications were revised to reflect changes in technology;
- 3) Substantive changes/additions to content:
 - Section V (Committees) has been deleted;
 - A new section (Section VII – Mail and Publication) has been added;
 - A new sub-section (Section III.A – Definition of Membership) has been added;
 - Changes were made to Section II.C.2 (Procedures for Selection of Candidates) and Section II.D (Officers) to streamline processes and increase transparency.

I invite you to join us for an informational conversation about these topics:

*January 10, Thursday evening after Community Night – Bring your dinner or a Potluck dish for fellowship at 6:00 pm, then informational conversation with the Board at 6:30 (room TBA).

*January 13, Sunday afternoon after second service – grab a coffee and a snack in the Johnson Room, the join us at 12:30 pm (room TBA).

Please come to either session regardless of whether you are more interested in conversing about Strategic Plan or ByLaws, or come to both.

Have a Happy and Safe New Year! Feliz Año Nuevo!

Jimmy

Our next Board meetings are:

January 22nd

February 26th

6:00 pm in the Johnson Room (All are welcome to join us!)

The UUCP Midyear Congregational Meeting is January 27th

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

Frances Johnson Bishop	John Connair Cummings
Joanlynn Davis	Thomas Roberts Foltz, Jr.
Gertrude Posner Ganseberg	Hubert Lambeth Gay, Jr.
Jane Horswell	Robert Klaus
Gladys Lillian Klaus	Gladys Klaus
James Lynch	Wendell Charles Manker
Gordon Woods	James Francis Bauman

UU Day at the Legislature on Presidents' Day

Plans are underway for a UU Day at the Arizona State Legislature on Monday, February 18th. We hope to welcome UUs from every congregation in the state, and a planning team with representation from seven congregations is meeting regularly.



2013 Arizona UU Day at the Legislature

UU DAY at the LEGISLATURE

Save the date:

February 18th, 2013

***Make plans to join us as we
revitalize the tradition of the
UU Day at the Legislature!***

***The Day's Schedule and Other
Details to follow!***

The special day at the Arizona State Capitol Complex will be open to all (*registration to start in January*); at UUCP the planning is being done jointly by Arizona Immigration Ministry and the Social Action Committee.

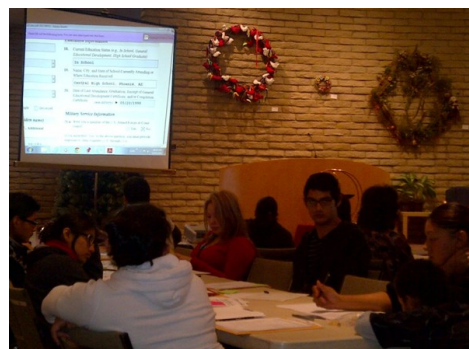
Education, immigration, and health care are the topics upon which we will focus our legislative visits and advocacy. All of those issues are intertwined and closely connected to the condition of the state's economy, which has experienced a slow recovery from the recession. The legislative session begins at noon on Monday, January 14, 2013. As of this writing Arizona senators and representatives are busy "prefiling" bills for the session.

Sixty New Applicants for "Deferred Action"

Before the sun was up on Saturday, December 15th, "Dreamers" were at the front door of UUCP, eager to file an application for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. Inside, the heart of the sanctuary was set so that the "Dreamers" could work intently on their applications, yet they could look up from time to time at the holiday decorations.

By the end of the day at least 20 volunteers from UUCP and 40 other volunteers had a role as 60 completed application envelopes were filled, ready to mail to the nation's capitol.

I have described some of the legal and economic significance of Deferred Action in previous articles. The photos here are instead a glimpse into something else—a gathering of Arizonans who might otherwise meet rarely, reaching for a common goal. It all happened just before Christmas, in the darkest and rainiest time of the year.



Con abrazos fuertes,
Sandy Weir
Arizona Immigration Ministry Organizer
sandyweir@phoenixuu.org

Greetings from Your Music Director!

I've been doing a lot of practicing the piano for the Full Circle Women's Choir. As I'm practicing a beautiful setting of Psalm 23, I sometimes sing the text. I'm reminded of the words humans use to describe what I believe is our shared divinity: God or goddess, Allah, elohim, the great "I am," the Source, ehyeh, Deo, Supreme being...

To me it does not really much matter what that shared divinity is called. It's in all of us. It is that part of what is our very best, our highest potential.

I'm also reminded of a singer who is uncomfortable singing about a birth that she does not believe happened. And another wishing for less texts that refer to spirituality. And I think, most of the lyrics talking about the birth of Jesus are true for all children: holy night, mother and child, tender and mild, infant holy, angels guard thy bed, the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee, come to save us, joy to the world!

Every child has the potential to bring us joy, peace and good will.
Every child has the potential to make the world a better place.
Every child born gives us hope that life is good, and the future is bright.
Every child could be yet another human being to succeed where we have failed.
Every new birth is a chance to begin again, to love anew, to create peace.

So for all of you we wish
(choose from as many as you like)

_____ Happy Dwali (Indian) Sorry, we're really late on this one
_____ Blessed Bodhi Day (Buddhist)
_____ Happy Hanukkah Shalom! (Jewish)
_____ Happy Saint Lucy's Day (Santa Lucia)
_____ Merry Solstice/Yalda, Saturnalia— and Merry meet again!
_____ Happy Soyal (Zuni and Hopi)
_____ Merry Christmas (modern Christian) and Yule (Pagan)
_____ Boxing Day (Canada) and St. Stephen's Day
_____ Joyful Kwanzaa and Pan African Festival
_____ Happy New Year

By the way, this is probably my last column for the Horizons. Your new music director I'm sure will bring you new words of wisdom.

Connie Jahrmarkt, CML, signing off...

Auction Results Are In!



Thank you everyone who participated in this year's auction. Whether you donated items, purchased items, or volunteered your time, you all contributed to raising more than \$25,000! This was our most successful auction yet. It was also our first-ever combined auction between the preschool and the congregation and more than 150 people attended from both communities.

We have tickets available for the following events, please contact the office if you would like to purchase them:

Saturday, March 2, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. – Music and Wine Tasting, Two Arts Together at Gerry Kato and Bennett McKinney's home. Join Gerry and Bennett and Lynne Haeseler for a soiree afternoon in the beautiful setting of a private home and lovely backyard gardens. *Limited to 40 guests and there are two spots left. Cost is \$40 per person.*

Saturday, March 2, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. – Potluck Passover Seder Dinner at Judith Eisenberg's home. Join Judith, Duke Plattner, and Barbara Cawthorne for an authentic Passover dinner and service. *This is limited to 12 guests and there are three spots left. Cost is \$15 per person.*

Saturday, March 23, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. – New Mexico Green Chili Feast at UUCP. Native New Mexico green chile dishes for vegetarians and non-vegetarians. Includes dinner, drinks, and desserts. *Limited to 50 people and there are 27 spots left. Cost is \$25 per person.*

A SPECIAL REQUEST FROM HEIDI

Many of you know that the past two auctions there hasn't been a real "committee" running the event. It has mostly been myself who recruited volunteers for special tasks. For our 4th Annual Auction in 2013 it is my goal to recruit a real committee to help plan, organize and run this important event. The more UUCP members are a part of the planning and organizing the better it will be. We will have even more awesome items, events, and experiences up for auction and the more community building the auction will be. Also, the more people who help in the planning stages, the more fun and creative the event will be. More members = more fun!

Both Anne Byrne, the Director of Children's Ministries, and I will sit on this committee as staff support and ensure that all roles are actively filled. I will still oversee the financial aspect of the auction, including closeout, but the committee will work together to set the theme, food and drink menu, entertainment, publicity, and general success of the event.

The first meeting will be set in August. Most likely there will only be one meeting a month August and September. In October I expect we will move to twice a month and in November to once a week with the auction being held the first Saturday in December.

From the Staff...

There are several roles to fulfill on the Auction Committee, both by the congregation members and preschool parents:

Auction Chair: Coordinates the meetings, sets the agendas, and makes sure that committee members have everything they need to complete their tasks.

Publicity: Creates and manages the publicity timeline. Creates publicity announcements and flyers to present to the committee. Sees that approved publicity is submitted to all internal communications.

Donation Procurement Coordinator: Manages the solicitation and collection of donations for the auction. This includes publicity to spark ideas for donations within the congregation, creating a system to solicit donations from businesses, and inputting all donations in the auction software and making sure items have detailed and interesting descriptions for the catalog and display posters.

Signage and Bid Sheets Editor: Creates and prints all necessary signage for the auction as well as bid sheets.

Auction Catalog Editor: Creates, edits and publishes the Auction Catalog.

Food and Drink Coordinator: Researches food and drink options to present to committee. Recruits and manages volunteers to help with shopping, cooking, and food prep.

Decorating Coordinator: Researches decorating ideas to present to committee. Obtains decorations, tablecloths, and recruits and manages volunteers to help with decorating.

Entertainment Coordinator: Researches entertainment ideas to present to the committee. Recruits and manages volunteers to carry out the entertainment.

Raffle Coordinator: Manages the raffle including: soliciting donations for the raffle, making sure that publicity is done and tickets are on sale on Sundays the month of the auction, does the drawing the night of the auction.

Ticket Sales Coordinator: Creates and publishes the tickets. Recruits and manages volunteers to sell auction tickets. Inputs the sales into the auction software.

I assure you that if all these roles are filled the auction becomes a breeze to organize and run. If you are interested in being on the Auction Committee please contact me in the office.

In community,
Heidi Parmenter
Business Administrator



UUCP Community Nights & Chalice Kids Club

We will continue 6:00 pm Thursday evening potluck dinners in the Johnson Room—or, if you prefer, bring your own sack supper. This is a great time to get to know other UUCP members and friends over a shared meal, and it's a good way to have a relaxed dinner prior to your Thursday evening class or other UUCP event. Don't have a Thursday evening meeting or activity lined up at UUCP? That's alright! You can come anyway, enjoy dinner, and just sit awhile and visit! Chalice Club activities for kids begin at 6:30 for children whose parents are staying on campus. If you want childcare for a little one who is two years old or younger, please let Children's Ministry Director Anne Byrne know in advance so that we have an appropriate number of child care professionals in place (annebyrne@phoenixuu.org).

nUUs from Your Youth Ministries Coordinator

COMING OF AGE CANDIDATES ARE BUSY COMING OF AGE!

Our junior high school students have been busily fulfilling their requirements for graduation from the program. Some of these requirements include:

- 12 hours internal community service
- 12 hours external community service
- 6 interviews with congregation members
- Attendance at one board meeting and any 2 committee meetings
- Visits to 5 other houses of worship
- Meeting with the minister
- Meeting with COA review panel
- Memorization of an important quotation
- Preparation of essay, song, poem or project
- Participation in annual graduation service on May 19

This is hard work for our youth, on top of schoolwork and family responsibilities and making time to still be “kids”! Last month, they visited the New Day Center to help serve dinner and the experience made a big impact, with lots of heartfelt questions and honest inquiry about homelessness, hunger, domestic abuse, and the impact on children.

The class also made a special trip to the Quaker Meeting House down the road last month, where we were welcomed into the silence. The youth reported appreciating the time to reflect, and to contemplate anything they wanted. In January, we will have an exclusive visit with active and former members of the LDS faith.

Our youth and their teaching team have also been exploring UU rituals and worship, talking about theology in general, discussing God and the idea of “goodness”, and soon will begin talking about social justice and the history of Unitarian Universalism. Students have started to look for meaningful quotations that they will use as the basis for their final essay or project, and to balance all their hard work, we have cooked up a fun, offsite sleepover set for February 1! Please be sure to mark your calendars for May 19 and plan to be part of UUCP's Coming of Age Graduation Service and Celebration!

YRUU CONTINUES TO DISCOVER WHY ARE YOU YOU?

Take equal parts of music, introspection, sugar, caffeine, history, social media, compassion, intelligence, humor, honesty, and mismatched socks and what do you have? Our high school youth group! Multiply that by 100 and you have Senior High Winter Camp at DeBeneville Pines!

On December 26, Asha, Hayley, Mitch, Caleb, Cayenne, Reed and Ryan all headed “up the hill” to the Pacific Southwest District’s camp high in San Bernardino National Forest to spend a week with youth from California, Nevada and Arizona. The youth-generated theme was “Camp ApUUCalypse” and campers were invited to “come and live like you’re dying” as they shared a week of “survival and growth” together. New friendships blossomed, old ones were strengthened, good food was consumed and zombies were destroyed. Asha Arora was the youth dean at camp, and Geoff Anderla was on staff – thanks to both of them, and to the all of our youth, for representing UUCP!

Every Sunday in YRUU brings a unique energy, depending on who shows up at 9:30. We spend some time checking in with each other, sharing personal highlights and struggles, and then answering a question such as: How often do you clean between your toes? Or: If you were to perform in the circus, what would you do? Or: What article of clothing most closely describes your personality? While seemingly innocuous, the answers to these silly questions help us get to know each other better and serve to illuminate the commonalities among our youth.

After checking in, we often linger briefly over anything in the news or within our community that we may want to discuss before launching into our scheduled topic. Even though our advisors are prepared to lead a specific discussion, anyone in the group is welcome to suggest a different topic or ask for discussion regarding a personal or school issue. In December we spent some time talking about the shootings in Sandy Hook, as well as some of the security issues our youth see in their own schools.

January brings YRUU a time to reflect, not just on 2012, but on the history of YRUU at UUCP. We will revisit our vision and tweak topics for the rest of the year. We will spend time strengthening our youth leadership, and work on our youth service set for February 3. So, close your eyes and imagine one part viola, one part acoustic guitar, 2 parts flute, one part cello, one part bagpipes and some amazing voices, and then open your eyes and mark your calendars for February 3 so you won’t miss this annual tradition when our youth take over the pulpit for the day! See you there!

Save These Dates

Please save the following dates for some special events. There will be more details in upcoming issues of Horizons.

February 14: Valentine’s Day at UUCP Community Night, special potluck dinner and family service projects

March 30: UUCP Congregational Picnic at Railroad Park sponsored by the Membership Committee

Adult Faith Development

SEARCH FOR HAPPINESS

Thursday, January 10 & 17

6:30-8:00 pm, Annex C

Facilitator: Diane Mote

There is still time to sign up for this interesting topic! Diane will provide all the materials you'll need to prompt a lively discussion of two authors' radically opposing views on how we can "get happy!" Register at the Book Table on Sunday morning or leave a message at the office: 602-840-8400, Ext. 200. You can pay \$10 at the Book Table or at the first class or use your UU Studies Pass (available for \$35 at the Book Table if you don't have one).

Join other UUCP members and friends at the Community Night potluck in the Johnson Room before your class. You'll be glad you did!

OASIS IN THE DESERT

Thursday, January 17

6:30-8:00 PM

Room 21, Minister's Study (upstairs)

Facilitator: Uli Boecker

This mini-retreat follows the 6:00 pm Community Night potluck in the Johnson Room. Uli will lead and teach Hand and Foot Massage and Acupressure techniques so that participants can take turns helping one another dissipate the stresses of the day. All lotions, potions, hot towels and gloves will be provided. You will remain fully dressed. Take a breath. Come and enjoy. Refresh mind, body, and spirit! If there is enough interest, this mini-retreat may be offered on an ongoing monthly basis.

Please note that there is no fee for this retreat, but we will ask for donations that will go to the congregation. Space is limited so we will be accepting sign-ups at the Book Table on Sundays. You may also reserve your spot by calling 602-840-8400, Ext. 200 and leaving a message for our Office Volunteers.

BUILDING YOUR OWN THEOLOGY

Building Your Own Theology encourages participants to explore the meanings, values, and commitments of our individual world views. In BYOT we ask ourselves: What do we believe? Why do we believe it? What do our beliefs mean for the way we live our lives?

A key activity in BYOT is developing our own personal credo that reflects our "free and responsible search for truth and meaning." Join Terry Simmons and Lois Leader in an exploration of the ways we build our own theology Sunday mornings 9:00-10:30 am from January 20th to February 10th. (Note that the dates have changed from those listed in the Program Catalog.)

Ministry and Committee Reports...

3RD ANNUAL COUPLES' ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

The Adult Faith Development and Right Relations Ministries are again offering the couples' enrichment program. Past participants stated they learned many helpful communication skills and how the UU principles can be used to enhance their relationship. The program will be led by Michele Morgan and Sam Kirkland and is open to both mixed and same-sex couples. It will be held six weeks on Thursdays: February 7, 14, 28 and March 7, 14, and 21, 7:00-9:00 pm at UUCP. The class is limited to 8 couples; we had a wait list last year so you may want to sign up early.

To sign up, see Sandy Thompson at the back of the sanctuary between services. You can also contact Sam Kirkland at skirk56@aol.com or Michele Morgan at amichmorg@aol.com, or call them at 602-971-1488 to sign up.

UU PRINCIPLES

Sundays, February 17 through March 10
Annex B
Facilitator: Michael Hipps

What are the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism? Where did they originate? Who wrote them? Most importantly, what do they mean to me and how do I live them in my daily life? Join fellow UUs in reading, learning about, and reflecting on these questions. Whether you're new to Unitarian Universalism, a longtime UU, or somewhere in the middle, you have something important to add to and gain from this conversation.

COMPASSIONATE COMMUNICATION

The date for this one-day workshop has been changed from February to March 9, 2013, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm in the Johnson Room. Please check the UUCP Program Catalog or next month's Horizons for a description of this course on nonviolent communication led by Julie Wambach and Sandy Thomson.

PATHWAY TO MEMBERSHIP

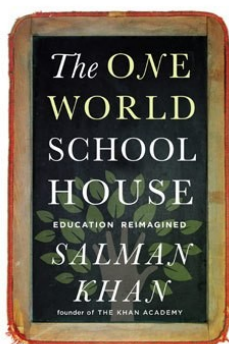
NEW DATES

Sunday, February 10, 8:45-10:00 am
and Saturday, February 16, 6:00-8:00 pm
UUCP's Johnson Room

For more information, please refer to the UUCP Program Catalog available on our web site at www.phoenixuu.org or contact Rev. Linda Lawrence at lindalawrence@phoenixuu.org or 602-840-8400, Ext. 204. Indicate your interest in this class by calling Rev. Linda or by signing the form at the Welcome Table on any Sunday morning. You will receive a follow-up email or phone call to confirm your reservation for the class.

Book Group Reimagines Education

Starting January 6th, UUCP Book Group will begin discussing:



The One World Schoolhouse: Education Reimagined by Salman Khan (Oct 2, 2012)

A free, world-class education for anyone, anywhere: this is the goal of the Khan Academy, a passion project that grew from an ex-engineer and hedgefunder's online tutoring sessions with his niece, who was struggling with algebra, into a worldwide phenomenon. Today millions of students, parents, and teachers use the Khan Academy's free videos and software, which have expanded to encompass nearly every conceivable subject; and Academy techniques are being employed with exciting results in a growing number of classrooms around the globe.

Like many innovators, Khan rethinks existing assumptions and imagines what education could be if freed from them. And his core idea—liberating teachers from lecturing and state-mandated calendars and opening up class time for truly human interaction—has become his life's passion. Schools seek his advice about connecting to students in a digital age, and people of all ages and backgrounds flock to the site to utilize this fresh approach to learning.

In *The One World Schoolhouse*, Khan presents his radical vision for the future of education, as well as his own remarkable story, for the first time. In these pages, you will discover, among other things:

- How both students and teachers are being bound by a broken, top-down model invented in Prussia two centuries ago
- Why technology will make classrooms more human and teachers more important
- How and why we can afford to pay educators the same as other professionals
- How we can bring creativity and true human interactivity back to learning
- Why we should be very optimistic about the future of learning.

Parents and politicians routinely bemoan the state of our education system. Statistics suggest we've fallen behind the rest of the world in literacy, math, and sciences. With a shrewd reading of history, Khan explains how this crisis presented itself, and why a return to "mastery learning," abandoned in the twentieth century and ingeniously revived by tools like the Khan Academy, could offer the best opportunity to level the playing field, and to give all of our children a world-class education now.

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

Opportunity for Enthusiastic and Dedicated Individuals

The UUCP Nominating Committee is beginning to plan for the upcoming elections in late spring for the UUCP Board of Trustees, Foundation, and Nominating Committee. Could this be the opportunity you are looking for to get more involved in achieving the mission of our congregation? Here are a few facts to get you thinking:

- UUCP Board and Nominating Committee terms are two years; the term for Foundation Board members is three years.
- You don't need to wait to be asked to serve. You can contact any member of the Nominating Committee to discuss your interests.
- All three committees are focused on helping UUCP achieve its mission of building religious community, growing in spirit, sharing journeys, and advancing justice. The UUCP Board doesn't handle operational items any more... leaving more time to plan and think about the future, and evaluate our progress.
- Primary qualifications include alignment with the congregation's mission and the ability to communicate well with congregation members. We need people that model generous giving of time, talent and treasure. This includes new members as well as long-term members, and people of all walks of life and perspectives.
- Serving is rewarding and FUN. Ask any of the current members!

Over the coming weeks and months look for more details about our progress. In the meantime please contact any Nominating Committee member for more information: Paula Kulina (chair), Jay Bastani, Terry Simmons, Juli Harvey, Terry Lockwood and Greg Holmberg.

Traveling 2nd Fridays

Curious about Traveling 2nd Fridays? Come learn about other cultures and far-off lands as UUCP members and guests share their adventures in Bhutan, Malta, and other foreign countries. Join us the second Friday of each month from 7:00-8:00 pm in the UUCP sanctuary. Here's a preview of our January program:

January 11 – NEW BEGINNINGS IN CHIAPAS with Robyn Valdizon:

I started going to Mexico in 2006, and as a fluent Spanish speaker and lover of culture, I always felt at home wherever I went and with whomever I encountered. In 2010, I spent most of the summer in Mexico and finally had the opportunity to visit Chiapas, Mexico's southernmost and poorest state, a state with a variety of cultures and conflicts. I learned of a massacre at a village in 1997 and had the opportunity to visit the village and spend time with some of its people. Once a month the village holds a memorial service for the victims. It was the most humbling experience of my life. I spent time with young children denied basic rights, such as education, while in San Cristobal and visited a Zapatista village. I left Chiapas feeling I had discovered a new path in life; one that led me to desire fewer material things and be deliberate in the relationships in my life.

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



From the Archive—Cabaret!

by Charlotte Carl-Mitchell

UUCP's musical variety show/fundraiser, Cabaret, was started in 1975 by then-choir director Oonagh Sykes Boppart. The show has been held regularly over the years.

The next Cabaret will be on Saturday, February 23, 2013. Here are some posters from previous events showing the variety of themes and how the prices have changed. What hasn't changed is the good time had by the performers and audience.

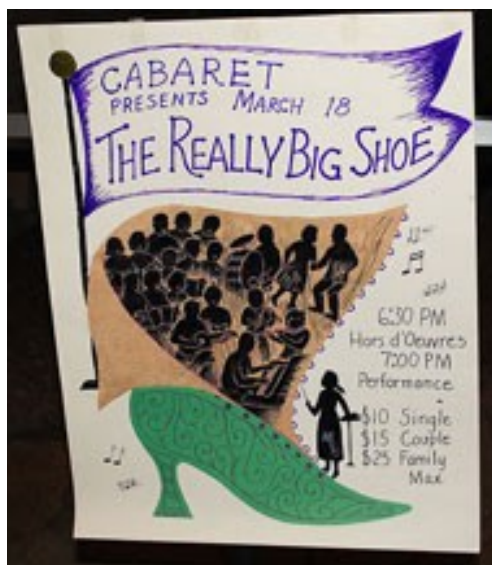


1999 Cabaret poster designed by Pat Shannon.

These posters from 1985, 1986, and 1987 were made by Jean Lawton.



Pat Shannon made these Cabaret posters in 2006, 2007 and 2008.



More Cabaret history will be in the February Horizons article. If you have any memories, photos or programs from early Cabarets, please contact me at ccm@tic.com or 480-922-7313. I'd love to have copies for the Archive.

Share the Plate with Circulo de Amigas January 13th

Our offering on January 13th will help provide safe educational environment to impoverished girls of Jinotega, Nicaragua.

Through programs ranging from encouraging reading to reducing teen pregnancy rates, Circulo de Amigas helps provide a pathway out of poverty in the second poorest country in the western hemisphere. Currently, our congregation sponsors two girls. Jaritza is now attending nursing school. Lisbeth is in her final year of high school and planning to attend either college or nursing school. Our first sponsored student, Xiomara has now graduated advanced studies and is teaching school.

Founded by Pat McCully, a UU of California, the organization relies on donations and sponsorships. Thanks to volunteer work, administrative costs are less than two percent. See www.camigas.org.

Meditation for Health

Nearly all who attend our weekly services are familiar with meditation for contemplation. Nearly everyone who prays to God is familiar with meditation for praying according to a religious practice.

There is another type of meditation that is gaining worldwide recognition that is proven by recent scientific experiments to have health benefits when practiced regularly for even few minutes daily. If you have never done that type and want to try it out, here is what you can do:

Sit quietly in a darkened room on a straight back chair with erect spine and feet flat on the floor, hands comfortably in your lap. Close your eyes and focus your attention on your breathing. Breathe easily and evenly. Start counting your breaths from one to five. Inhale and exhale is one count. Try not to lose your place in counts by getting distracted by uninvited thoughts from your subconscious mind. They will remain in your subconscious for a future time when they are needed. If you lose your place, start with one again. Do this exercise involving your will power and the power of your conscious mind for three to five minutes. If you do this twice daily, you will notice improvement in your mental and physical sense of well-being in two to three weeks.

Best time to do this is when you are not likely to be interrupted and there is not a lot on your mind already. Best place is a quiet place.

After giving this type of meditation a good try, or even before that, if you have one or more questions, feel free to call me at 602-952-8889. The best time to call me is between 4:30 and 6:30 pm. Most Sundays, you may see me between 8:30 and 8:45 am to ask questions in Annex B. If you cannot reach me, please leave a short message with time of your call. I will call you back during that time frame on the days you would prefer for me to call. You may also write me at jayalagia@gmail.com.

Note: Jay has been teaching Hindu style meditation as adapted to the American way of life in UUCP since 1995. He also leads the meditation group activities at UUCP.

Eritrean Refugee Initiative (ERI)

In early December, UUCP marked the 9th anniversary of Aster Yohannes' disappearance at the hands of the Eritrean government by continuing our efforts for Eritrean refugees. Our donations to the Eritrean Youth for Change Free Aster Campaign contributed to the making of 10,000 calls into Eritrea on December 11. In addition UUCP members donated more than \$300 to the Eritrean Refugee Initiative, an outreach ministry of UUCP, by purchasing ERI bracelets. Some funds were used to provide items for Christmas baskets for two Eritrean Refugee families through the local office of the International Rescue Committee, a project taken on by two UUCP small ministry groups. Also in December, the UUCP Choir sponsored an Eritrean family of three through Lutheran Social Services, outfitting their apartment and greeting the new arrivals. Thank you all!

Libby Walker

Finance Committee

The finance committee has both good and no-so-good news concerning the current fiscal year. Overall, the book-keeping of the finances are running smoothly. An audit of the accounting by Robin Holden showed no errors or problems, although she did have a few recommendations for changes (thanks to Robin Holden for this work). The auction was very successful with more than \$25,400 received for the EEC and Congregation. However, the pledge income remains lower than projected and the Congregation budget is about \$20,000 in deficit.

Critical to this fiscal success is continued support of the Congregation members and we are thankful to all members for their continued commitment to the operation of the Congregation. In January 2012, statements will be provided to all members concerning their support for the 2011 calendar year (January 2011-December 2011 for tax purposes) as well as the current received pledges for the fiscal year (July 2011-December 2011). If you are one of the many members who make payments towards their pledges on a regular payment schedule, we remind you that it is possible to make use of an automated payment plan. With this process, there is no need of writing checks as the payments are withdraw from your account on a monthly basis. If you are interested in enrolling in this method or have questions concerning the pledge statements, please contact Heidi Parmenter at the office between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm Monday through Thursday (602-840-8400) or send an email to administrator@phoenixuu.org.

UUCP Sewing and Craft Circle

January 19th, drop in between 11:00 AM and 4:00 PM

Join other crafters in a relaxed setting any time between 11:00 AM and 4:00 PM in the Johnson Room on Saturday, January 19th. The UUCP Sewing circle has expanded to other fiber arts such as *knitting and crocheting*. Several knitters have joined us to make caps, shrugs, and lap blankets. The stitchers make very simple clothing and quilts for refugees and shelter residents. We can use help cutting, sorting, hand or machine stitching. If you have a machine, we'll help you carry it in. Feel free to bring your own lunch or a snack to share. For more information, contact Paula Adkins at 602-999-5004 or Lori Rubin-Williamson at 480-234-1476 (email lori.rubin-williamson@sage.com).

Social Action Committee Happenings

SOCIAL ACTION LUNCHEON

Sunday, January 20th 12:30 PM: Connecting U.S. Policy and a Culture of Cruelty in Latin America.

The Social Action Committee is pleased to present Shirley Tung of the Latin America Committee at our January Luncheon. Shirley is a longtime social justice advocate and activist. She has recently returned to the U.S. after participating in a Human Rights Delegation to Honduras. Her presentation will connect many countries and many areas of human rights abuses, especially Central America, with a culture of cruelty that implicates U.S. policies. Please join us for this fascinating study of the consequences of U.S. policies in Latin America.

Join us for Lunch in the Johnson Room after the second service on Sunday, January 20th. Lunch will be catered by New Day Gourmet and *everybody is invited*. A voluntary contribution is appreciated for the food. Contact Trent Tripp for more information.

Looking forward to February we have booked Laurie Roberts, columnist from the Arizona Republic Newspaper, to give us an update on the happenings at the AZ State Legislature. Later in the year we will address woman's reproductive rights and economic inequality.

MEMBERS WANTED

SAC is looking for a few good people who would like to help on a couple of upcoming projects:

Help us research the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) and its impact on our community. Help us maximize the potential benefits of this program for Arizona by supporting state legislation that provides the most coverage to our people. Going forward, help us educate the community so that they know their rights under this new law. This is a pivotal point for healthcare accessibility in Arizona and it's happening now! Be a part of the SAC's Healthcare Action Team!

Help us support and lift up the LGBTQ community by participating in the PhoenixPride Parade and Festival on April 6th and 7th. The UUCP SAC will again share a booth with our sister congregations in Chandler and Glendale and our Parade contingent will be bigger and better than ever! Help organize or just participate in this fabulous annual event!

Please contact Trent Tripp for more information on these projects or just stop by the Social Action Table at the back of the Sanctuary after either Sunday service.

UUCP Past, Present, and Future

Senior-i-T/Tea/Tee

Wednesday, January 16th, 2:00-4:00 PM

Senior-i-T: Is for all Trustworthy, Tender, Talented, *terrific* members/friends who are 60+ years young.

Senior-i-Tea: Coffee, tea, and light refreshments will be served.

Senior-i-Tee: Wear your favorite tee-shirt or golf shirt if you wish. You don't have to dress up.

Charlotte Carl-Mitchell, Rev. Linda, and Rev. Susan will present our January program. We will view and discuss archival materials, talk about UUCP's present moment, and dream about the future of our congregation. Please join us for this participatory program! No reservations are required, but you may contact Rev. Linda at 602-840-8400, Ext. 204, if you need a ride. We'll see if we can help with transportation.

Please remember to bring a book or two for the book exchange. Also, if you have an activity in mind that you'd like to invite others to do with you, please bring an "Adventure Club" sign-up sheet so that you will have contact information to form a group for your activity. Adventure Club Ideas: carpooling from UUCP to the Musical Instrument Museum, musical event, movie, play, walk or hike, botanical gardens, bike ride, board game afternoon, speaker/lecturer.

Unicare

FRIENDSHIP PARTNERS:

BOB & LUCIENNE COLLAER RUSCONI

Bob and Lucienne Rusconi are two of UUCP's Living Treasures. They are now 91 and 88 years old, respectively, and have been married for 67 years. Lucienne was born, educated and raised as a Catholic in Brussels, Belgium. Bob was also raised as a Catholic and grew up in San Francisco.

During the Second World War, Bob was drafted into the Army Air Corps and trained to be an aircraft maintenance mechanic. He was sent to Europe where, while on R&R in Brussels, he met Lucienne at a USO dance held at the "21 Club" (named as such for the 21 countries fighting the Germans). Her four years of English study was sufficient to allow them to get to know each other.

Lucienne studied art at the Royal Academy of Beaux Arts in Brussels and has since painted under her maiden name of Collaer. During the German occupation, she received "slave labor" documentation with which she might be deported to work in Germany. At her intake interview, after her artistic work was viewed, she was told that the Third Reich needed good artists and was asked if a one year's study postponement would enable her to become more skilled. She replied affirmatively. Fortunately, she received the postponement and subsequently became the first American GI bride in Brussels. She crossed the Atlantic on the first liberty ship of "war brides" to leave France for New York City. After Bob's discharge and re-entry into civilian life, the Rusconis first settled in Bakersfield, CA, where Bob studied aeronautical maintenance under the auspices of the



GI Bill. They then moved to the San Francisco Bay area. Lucienne continued painting and was also an education assistant at the Oakland museums. In this capacity, she designed exhibits and displays for the museums and was a tour leader. Bob was in the reserves, was re-inducted during the Korean War and served in both Korea and Japan. In 1955, he was sent to Castle AFB (near Merced, CA), the first B-52 operational base, to be a structural mechanic.

In 1957, Bob's next tour of duty took them to Ellsworth AFB, outside of Rapid City, South Dakota. Lucienne painted, exhibited, marketed her paintings and was initially a volunteer coordinator for the base's family services. She says that there was a great need for spousal and family support and counseling for the base's young, married couples. She went on to coordinate eleven committees that included shopping and cooking lessons and a donation center.

Two years later, in 1959, they were transferred to Chateauroux in France and one year later to Athens, Greece. Lucienne remembers this assignment as being the highlight of their Air Force career as they lived in a modern apartment in an Athens' suburb and she thoroughly enjoyed teaching art to second to eighth graders and high school students at the American School in Athens.

Three years later, they were transferred to Dyess AFB in Abilene, TX, where Lucienne painted, exhibited and taught art classes at the Creative Art Club, the Abilene Fine Arts Museum and McMurray College. This tour lasted for 11 years, enabling Bob to receive a BS in Social Studies from McMurray. During this period, he was also sent to Thakli AFB in Thailand to provide aircraft maintenance support, training and education.

While in Abilene, they were introduced to Unitarian Universalism and attended fellowship services held at a YMCA. Both Lucienne and Bob felt that they had finally "found" their religion. The Rusconi's next home was at Mountain Home AFB (nearest city Boise, Idaho) which was their base for the next three years. Bob worked on the new F-111 fighter bomber. Lucienne painted and organized an art group on the base. After 28 years of active service, he retired from the Air Force as a Senior Master Sergeant.

When asked how it was that they retired in Scottsdale, Lucienne replied that while stationed in Abilene, they had travelled many times through Scottsdale to visit Bob's family in Bakersfield, CA, and had always stopped here for a few days because they found it an attractive and interesting city. They joined UUCP when Ray Manker was the minister. Lucienne became involved with the Women's Alliance and took on the chairmanship of the Art Committee, displaying a different exhibit of art work for 14 years on the walls of the sanctuary. She coordinated shows and presented the work of different artists with the help of Florence Foltz, Ken Croissant, Bob Murphy, Bob Rusconi and others.

One of Lucienne's paintings now hangs in the church foyer. We are fortunate to have learned from their many experiences and from Lucienne's inspiring sensitivity and mastery of two-dimensional technique as manifested in her paintings.

Lucienne's and Bob's Friendship Partners are Charlotte and Smoot Carl-Mitchell and Ellie and Bob Murphy.

UNICARE COMMUNITY NEWS:

- Our thoughts and prayers are with Susan Morris. Susan's father, Ralph, passed away in late November.
- We lift up Amy Miskell, as her mother, father and aunt were recently hospitalized. Her mother has been released, her father was transferred to a rehabilitation center, and her aunt will begin hospice care.
- Smoot Carl-Mitchell was recently diagnosed with prostate cancer. Thankfully, it was caught in at an early stage. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers as he makes important health decisions.
- We hope Trish Black's step-father, Marvin's, health continues to improve. He was hospitalized after suffering from a seizure and continues to recover from a seizure.
- Lissa Heider, a member of our Sewing Circle and UUCP community, was hospitalized in November and diagnosed with Progressive Supranuclear Palsy. We send her our thoughts and prayers.
- Paul Daniels, longtime congregation member, was in a car accident last month. He suffered multiple broken ribs and during treatment was diagnosed with stage three multiple myeloma. We are happy to hear he is in good spirits and that this is a form of cancer that responds well to treatment. Paul is currently undergoing chemotherapy.
- Michael Wheaton, son of Vickie Copeland and Mark Wheaton, is home after a lengthy stay at Phoenix Children's Hospital. We lift up Matthew and his family as they cope with Matthew's new health challenges.
- Anne Bryne's brother, Tom, is doing well after chemo and radiation therapy. She is happy to report that his tumor has shrunk and there is no further spread of cancer.
- We wish Heidi Singer's brother Dan a quick recovery as he is healing from double bypass surgery. We also congratulate Heidi as she started a new job in December.
- Gary and Ann Ezzell celebrated the birth of a new grandchild, Garrison Drake Tatebe, on December 12. This is their daughter's first child.
- Big congratulations to new grandparents Sylvia and Jagdev Sharma. Their first grandchild, Dylan Diego Sharma, was born December 1.

Please take a moment to extend your personal greetings of concern or congratulations to the members and friends listed here. If you have any joys or sorrows you wish to share with the UUCP community, please write them down Sunday mornings on the slips provided at the back of the sanctuary or contact unicare@phoenixuu.org.

Walk in beauty,
Ceyshe' Napa, Unicare Coordinator

WhaleCoast Alaska 2013

Have you always dreamed of visiting Alaska? If so, WhaleCoast Alaska 2013 is for you! Four Alaskan UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program this summer! See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Sitka with friendly homestays and unique tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bear, whales, bald eagles, seals, and caribou. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. Enjoy all that our beautiful state has to offer. Programs led by Dave Frey, a member of the Fairbanks, Alaska UU congregation, an expert in Alaska travel. To find out more about your Alaskan trip of a lifetime, visit www.WhaleCoastAK.org, email dfrey@whalecoastak.org, or call 907-322-4966. We would love to share our Alaska with you!

Coffee Hour Caution

*...advice for older adults greeting young adults
in Unitarian Universalist churches*

- Avoid saying:

"How old are you?"

Why: Is age so important? There's no good answer. Just avoid this one altogether.

- Say instead:

"What did you think of the service today?"

- Avoid saying:

"Are you new here?"

Why: A young adult may have been attending for years, you just haven't met them. This implies you think they don't belong in the church.

- Say instead:

"I don't think we've met, my name is..."

- Avoid saying:

"When are you planning to have kids?"

Why: Having or not having kids is a private matter and not one people may want to discuss. This implies you only value young adults for their future children, not as a peer adult, here and now.

- Say instead:

"What brought you here today?"

- Avoid saying:

"What do you do? / What year are you in school?"

Why: For those who are un- or under-employed, work is a tricky question - and assuming someone is a student implies you think they are a certain age. Give them the chance to talk about whatever is meaningful, which might not be school or a job.

- Say instead:

"So tell me about yourself."

- Avoid saying:

"We need more young people!"

Why: Like everyone else, young adults want to be seen for who they are rather than as a token for their age group.

- Say instead:

"Great to meet you!"

- Avoid saying:

"Have you met our other young adult?"

Why: Young adults enjoy friends of all ages. Welcome them into the community of faith and fellowship.

- Say instead:

"Can I introduce you to my friend?"



DO: Introduce yourself • Make friends • Be interested • Reach out • Respect boundaries



Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Unitarian Universalist Association • uua.org/youngadults

Celebrations of Life

9:30 AM and 11:15 AM

JANUARY 6: RING OUT THE OLD, RING IN THE NEW

Service Leader: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

Ring in the New Year and invite intention and hope into this still unformed year. Through silence, singing and ritual we will mark the turning of the new year.

JANUARY 13: SPEAK TRUTH TO POWER

Service Leader: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

Continuing our exploration of the sources of wisdom for Unitarian Universalists, we turn to the words and deeds of prophetic men and women who challenge us to confront structures of injustice with the transforming power of love. Who are these prophetic men and women? Who are your prophets and heroes?

JANUARY 20: MULTIGENERATIONAL KING SERVICE: CULTIVATING COURAGE

Service Leader: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

In honor of Rev. Martin Luther King's life and vision, we explore the ways that people of all ages can cultivate courage in our lives.

JANUARY 27 THE ALMOST CHURCH

Service Leader: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

Michael Durall calls Unitarian Universalism "the almost church." Our skepticism and questioning we wear as a badge of honor, but how does it inhibit our ability to really speak to the spiritual longings of our communities and our society. Are we selling ourselves short?

*President: Jimmy Leung
Vice President: Linda Bellantoni
Treasurer: Diana Ashley*

*Minister: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray
Minister Emeritus: Rev. Ray Manker
Assistant Minister: Rev. Linda Lawrence
Affiliate Community Minister: Rev. Kathleen Baughman
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Our Mission

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

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