



A Welcoming Congregation

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

February 2013

This month at a glance:

- 3—New Day Center Meal
- 3—Poetry Coffeehouse
- 8—Traveling 2nd Fridays
- 9—Sewing Circle
- 10—Pathway to Membership
- 10—Coming of Age Fundraiser
- 15—Parents' Night Out
- 16—PTM Potluck
- 17—Share the Plate
- 17—Social Action Luncheon
- 20—Senior-i-Tea
- 26—Board of Trustees Meeting

Ongoing:

- Addiction Discussion Group
- Book Group
- Choir Rehearsal
- Open Art Studio
- Meditation Group
- Men's Group
- Theater Group
- Walking Poets

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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AMERICAN
Bandstand
CABARET

ROCK to the Hits
from 1956 - 1989

UUCP
CABARET 2013
AMERICAN
BANDSTAND

FEBRUARY 23, 2013
7:00 P.M.

Doors Open 6:30

From the President

“Life only avails, not the having lived.
Power ceases in the instant of repose;
it resides in the moment of transition from a past to a new state,
in the shooting of a gulf, in the darting to an aim...
Inasmuch as the soul is present, there will be power not confident but agent.”
—Ralph Waldo Emerson

I have read in a number of articles and webpages about one of the fastest growing religious groups in the U.S., the self-described “spiritual but not religious.” Ever since the Board of Trustees endorsed in the strategic plan this aspirational ends statement, “Members see UUCP as the foundation for their personal and spiritual development and practice,” I’ve been contemplating *What is UU spirituality?*

At first I, like many UUs, struggled with this question. It seems that not many of our spiritual practices have been specifically passed down through tradition. Instead we most strongly value diversity (with a slight preference for the anti-traditional). I now realize that it is precisely in this inclusiveness that lies the strength of our UU spirituality. One need look no farther than our “seven sources” (see top of next page) to see that the extraordinary breadth of the sources of our inspiration also liberates our choices of spiritual practices.

There are not many religions that allow and encourage such freedom of spirit, and I cannot help but think that our church would be so fitting for many of those folk who self-identify as “spiritual but not religious.” For those who work towards an autonomous, self-reliant soul, there is no greater sage than Emerson, who is part of our tradition.

However, before we can become fertile soil for the spiritual potpourri, we have some work to do. First, those who are looking for a religious home must know that we are here. So we must be able to share our faith, make ourselves known, and reassert the presence of the “religious left.”

We also need to be serious about our religious life and allow ourselves to believe what we believe. The treacherous ground of religious diversity is the erosion of intention and de-prioritizing of our spiritual lives. A laissez-faire approach could drift our purpose in the congregation, allowing the non-spiritual activities to dominate. As Professor Harold Bloom said, “Emerson suggests we give ourselves to ourselves; that each of us can be cosmos rather than chaos.” To me that means we need to make wise choices in our spiritual practice and be committed to what we choose. If we were like kids in a spiritual candy store, we need to know that each of us cannot buy all of the candy, and we have to eat what we buy.

I think we should be very mindful of the things that are *not* spiritual, in other words, things that might have turned religion off to those who are “spiritual but not religious.” Some of the things I do regularly that I would not consider helpful to my spiritual life are: make agendas for meetings, protect my favorite seat in the sanctuary, ridicule politicians, do unsolicited wordsmithing of other people’s writing, contemplate the lunch menu. As Thoreau would point out, being overly concerned about mundane things can distract us from the mindful work of building our spiritual lives. Please understand, I am not saying that some these things cannot be important, even vital to the health of the church, but just that they should not take precedence over the reason I am member of a religious community—spiritual health. As my friend Smoot Carl-Mitchell is fond of saying, “Don’t sweat the small stuff.”

Take care, mind, heart and soul.
Jimmy

Our seven sources:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

Our next Board meetings are:

February 26th

March 26th

6:00 pm in the Johnson Room

All are welcome to join us!

An Invitation

The UUCP Nominating Committee is busy planning for the upcoming elections in late spring. There are openings on the UUCP Board of Trustees, the Foundation, and the Nominating Committee. If you think this might be the opportunity you are looking for to get more involved in achieving the mission of our congregation, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee.

As we have listened to what these groups are looking for in new members, there is a common thread: the ability to communicate well with other members of the congregation, whether it be about money and fundraising or asking others to volunteer their time. Technical skills like accounting, law, or extensive institutional knowledge are valuable but not required, making these openings a good fit for long-term and newer members alike. As mentioned last month we need people that model generous giving of time, talent, and treasure and people of all walks of life and perspectives.

Our deadline for having a complete slate of nominees is April 1. Please contact any Nominating Committee member for more information: Paula Kulina (chair), Jay Bastani, Terry Simmons, Terry Lockwood, Greg Holmberg, or Juli Harvey.

Minister's Musings

A few weeks ago, in the Adult Faith Development course Donna Featherston and I are leading called "Living By Heart," Bill Sabatino, a member of the class, shared work he did in developing an understanding of Unitarian Universalist spirituality. One of the goals for our ministry is that it will provide resources that help us all grow in spirit, whether we define that as personal growth, spiritual growth or a little of both. But reaching consensus on what that means for each of us is perhaps impossible. Yet, I was intrigued by Bill's model.

It is a model of UU Spirituality described through the metaphor of a house. The foundation—just as a house has a foundation, so does our spirit—is the Just Heart, looking to the world with compassion and care, wanting for others what we want for ourselves, having a sense of fairness, fitness. From the foundation came four pillars: the first, so central in our tradition, is Gratitude; the next is Grace, which can be understood as undeserved and unexpected blessings that touch our lives; the third, Bill described as the ability to "make Peace with life's inevitable changes, without which, one will have no peace at all;" and fourth, Community. These four pillars hold up the roof which is Humility.

Within our congregation and our tradition, we hold many different beliefs, but these can serve as basics to explore the way we grow our spirits—through cultivating a just heart, welcoming and intentionally building gratitude and community, noticing grace and making peace with life's inevitable changes. And, perhaps above all (like the roof above a house) is humility, a mindfulness of that which exceeds our knowing, that which lies beyond our control, and a humility in the face of all our best efforts that don't always meet our expectations.

I want to thank Bill for sharing this image of UU spirituality and spiritual growth and for allowing me to share it imperfectly with all of you.

This spring, we embark on a time of transition and change. Our strategic plan will help us clarify how we spend resources on our ministry to best serve our mission. In addition, it will help us understand better what we hope our programs offer to our members, our community, and the greater community.

Most concretely, we have a new addition to our staff team. I am pleased to welcome Benjie Messer to the staff as our new Music Director. Look for his article introducing himself. I am also excited for the ways that Connie will share her gifts for music as our choir director. Change usually brings unexpected things and I look forward to the ways this new staffing arrangement will grow and expand our music program. I also want to thank the members of the hiring committee who were a great help in guiding the search process: Diana Ashley, Paula Chang, Dave Cunningham, Reed Featherston, Sam Kirkland, Sarah Montgomery and Delmi Ortega, with support and counsel from Connie Jahrmarkt. I know our music program with Benjie, Connie, Lynne Haeseler and all our talented members will continue to inspire us and move us.

Blessings,

Susan

Arizona Immigration Ministry

A BEACON OF MORAL CONSCIENCE?

A few months ago the UUCP Board adopted “ends” statements for the congregation’s strategic plan. The third ends statement is “Beyond: UUCP is a flagship congregation in the UUA and a beacon of moral conscience to the world.” The work of the Arizona Immigration Ministry, and my work as its paid Organizer, is done in partnership with those in the wider community, beyond the members and friends of the congregation and beyond the UUCP campus. I am also a member of UUCP, and I do my work grounded by, grateful for, and mindful of, the congregation’s full mission statement and strategic plan. Nevertheless, my Organizer position is most closely related to “advancing justice,” as our mission statement says, and to helping UUCP become “a beacon of moral conscience to the world.”

Implementation of the “beyond” ends statement in 2013-2014 is to include, in part: the development of strategic goals and a long-term vision for AZIM’s ministry. This month I am sharing with you an essay I wrote that appeared in the Spring 2012 issue of the HUUMANISTS Journal, *Religious Humanism*. It expresses a commitment to sustained engagement in human rights work and it expresses my opinion as to how ready UUs are to engage in such work. The essay is a small part of the documentation of recent UU history, and an accounting of recent history is one of the starting points in planning. As we work together soon on strategic goals for AZIM, we will also look at the current situation and plan for the future. To me the last line of my essay is as true in February 2013 as it was before Justice GA: “The call to witness has come to us in this time and place and our human rights partners are our teachers.” Do you hear the call as I do, or differently?

The full essay:

“In April 2010 Arizona told many of its residents that they were not welcome anymore. Many had worked to build the state during the boom years, when productivity seemed proof of worth. When the state’s economy sagged, officials decided that residents who lacked certain papers were not worthy of residency. Officials created in Arizona SB 1070 a law that would press for the deportation of undocumented residents, bully even more residents, especially people of color, and punish their compassionate friends. A coalition filed a constitutional challenge to the law, alleging state interference with federal powers and other violations.

In June 2010 Unitarian Universalists recognized that we should not gather for a General Assembly (GA) where there was such a law unless the pursuit of justice became the subject of the gathering. We decided to witness on immigration, racial, and economic justice at GA in Phoenix in 2012. We resolved to take five actions to help Justice GA serve its intended purpose. One action established an Arizona Immigration Ministry to partner with other human rights groups in the state.

In 2011 the denomination and my congregation staffed the Arizona Immigration Ministry and I began work in the role of organizer. I am accountable to those who experience discrimination outside and within our faith community. I am grateful for a Justice GA that emphasizes listening to, and learning from, those directly affected by injustices. Since 2010 several states have enacted laws similar to SB 1070, and more persons throughout the nation have been put into the federal detention and deportation system, so more Unitarian Universalists have seen the intolerance near their own homes.

We knew enough to take a principled stand against violations of the rights of migrants and indigenous persons. We have so much yet to learn to fully realize our religious community’s potential to make the world more just.

Continued...

As we deepen our Arizona partnerships toward human rights, these three lessons have called me to sustained engagement in the struggle:

1. Here, where specific rights have been removed from the bundle one after another, partner groups have emerged who work to restore one or another of the rights. We are stronger for the work done by those with special knowledge of labor, educational, family, health, and other rights.
2. Productive work in separate areas of human rights also makes for ebb and flow in work done by coalition. Still, at critical times those most directly affected by the injustices step up as one. Allies are especially effective if we stay ready to follow our partners' lead and respond to them at those critical times.
3. People are more likely to see each other as whole persons if we are together often, in a variety of settings. We create bonds as we work on everyday challenges, so we know our partners when we stand together in public.

The call to witness has come to us in this time and place and our human rights partners are our teachers.”

Con abrazos fuertes,
Sandy Weir

March 30th, Save the Date!

The Membership Committee is sponsoring a UUCP Community Picnic on Sunday, March 30th. It will be held at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. We anticipate fun for all, but we especially hope to offer newer members and prospective members an opportunity to get to know other UUCP members and friends. Please watch our March publications for more information on exact location, what to bring, and what fun things there will be for you to do.

Coffee Hour Changes and Considerations

Coffee hour is the norm following services in many Unitarian Universalist congregations. It is a time for socializing and fellowship. It offers a chance for people of all ages to gather in the Johnson Room and on the patio for conversation and connection. It is a way to welcome newcomers and touch base with old friends.

Coffee hours can also be costly! We try to prepare for 100+ adults plus 30-40 children/youth after EACH service. It's a big job! Please bear with us as we re-evaluate how to fit coffee hour into our mission and into our budget. You will notice some changes in the coming months. They may be temporary changes as we go through this process of re-evaluation.

Please don't worry. There will still be friendly folks at coffee hours and, most importantly for some of you, there will still be coffee (as well as tea and lemonade and water). However, for at least awhile, the congregation will only be purchasing beverages, napkins, and cookies. Thanks for your understanding and cooperation during this time of transition.

Welcome Our New Music Director

Dear UUCP Members,

When I read several months ago that the UUCP was looking for a new music director, it sounded too good to be true, and I feel lucky to have been offered the job. I haven't been a member of the congregation until now, but I had the chance during the interview process to attend several services and a choir rehearsal, and it was clear that Connie Jahrmarkt has built a wonderful, inclusive music program that would be a pleasure to join. Connie will continue to direct the choir, and I'm sure I'll rely on her experience as I begin this exciting new position.

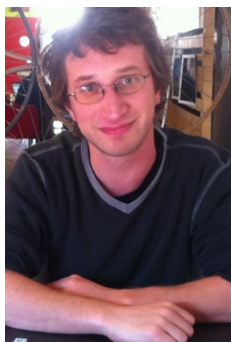
I hope that my varied, eclectic musical experience is valuable to you! Here's a sampling of my background:

- ♪ I lead and play tuba in a New Orleans-style brass band in Phoenix called Bad Cactus Brass Band. I'm proud to contribute to the cultural life of our city and to offer honest paying work to many struggling musicians.
- ♪ I taught elementary school general music and choir for many years. The grade-level teachers at my school only got to work with each student for one year, but I got the chance to use music to develop positive relationships between students of every grade during their entire six years at the school. Developing traditions for my young students made me passionate about traditional folksong and folk dance, and about music's place in building community.
- ♪ I love writing and arranging music. I've always written for the bands I perform in, and I've written and produced music for many local independent films. I love studying music, and occasionally attend orchestration study groups in Los Angeles.
- ♪ I teach courses in electronic music at Phoenix College, helping students learn to write music using computer programs, many of whom have little experience either writing music or using computers. I love seeing my students getting excited about their own abilities, and I've learned a lot from them.
- ♪ For many years I worked at a music production and technology company that gave me experience with administrative and legal issues in music, including copyright law, contracts, performance rights, licensing issues, and publishing.



Thanks for letting me introduce myself. I'm excited to meet you, hear about your musical histories, and start making and experiencing music together!

Benjie Messer
Music Director



Greetings from you Choir Director!

Okay, I know last month I said that would be my last column. But maybe you would like to know, “What does a Choir Director do?” Or at least, “What will this one do?”

The Congregation Choir and Family Choir will still rehearse and sing in services. I’ll be doing everything to prepare for that: choose and purchase music, plan the choirs’ schedules, learn the music and figure out the best way to teach it to the choirs, work with instrumentalists to accompany the choir, and lead the choir in events like Cabaret, the AZ UU Choral Festival, and the combined All-Choir services with Valley UU’s Choir. Benjie and I will work together to coordinate the music at UUCP. As some of you have said before, “It just keeps getting better!” You can expect that to continue.

I’m also planning to do more creative work where the choirs are concerned: research new sources for music and do more arranging for our choirs and instrumentalists. I would also like our choirs to become more visible in the valley: possibly work with Sandy Weir on bringing a musical aspect to immigration events, have a musical presence at PRIDE and ecumenical services like World AIDS Day, and Interfaith events. If you have some ideas about ways we can become involved in the community, I would love to hear them.

Because I’ll be working less hours at UUCP, I’ll have some more time to teach more violin, and rehearse and book performances for my band, Europa. I told Richard this week that we were going to have Music Jams (informal, sit around in a circle and trade tunes) at our house on a regular basis. Probably that will happen after Cabaret. (I hope you’re coming!) You might be getting an invitation to bring your axe (musician jargon for instrument) and play.

And who knows? I may even volunteer at UUCP doing something other than making music.

Hope you’ve saved February 23 for Cabaret on your calendar. Watch the Compass and Sunday announcement to buy your tickets!

Connie Jahrmarkt
thebandeuropa@cox.net
480-510-9541

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

The Business Behind Membership

When you become a member of UUCP, you become a part of something larger than our individual congregation. Each of the 1,041 Unitarian Universalist congregations unite in the Unitarian Universalist Association (www.uua.org) to provide services that individual congregations cannot provide for themselves. Each congregation is also associated with one of the UUA's 19 districts. UUCP is a member of the Pacific Southwest District (www.pswduua.org).

It is my job as the Business Administrator to audit our membership list for the purpose of annual certification. The certified membership number is used to calculate our congregation's Fair Share contribution to the UUA's Annual Program Fund for the following fiscal year, determine total District dues, and determine the number of voting delegates who may represent our congregation at General Assembly. This fiscal year our Fair Share based upon 425 members is \$24,650 to the UUA and \$10,200 to the District. This means that for each certified member, UUCP must send \$58 to the UUA and \$24 to the District. See the table below on the past 10 years of UUCP's Membership Certification numbers.

The idea that membership results in a direct cost to the congregation comes as a surprise to many people. What may come as an even bigger surprise is each member's "share" of the congregation budget.

The cost of membership to our Congregation is more like \$1,586... per person... this year. To determine this you'd divide the annual expense budget (\$673,917) and divide it by the number of members (425 from last certification).

All of this is, of course, assuming that all households are created economically equal. We recognize that this isn't true, so don't worry, I will not be sending you a bill from UUCP to this effect! This article is intended more as an informational piece in light of our annual membership certification due in February.

Right now Rev. Susan and I are putting the finishing touches on the July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013 Budget to set the pledge target for our annual Stewardship Campaign that starts in March. Next month I will report on the results of our 2013 annual certification.

For all of you who give generously within your means to the life and mission of this Congregation, thank you! Without you our Congregation could not be the spiritual home that it is for so many.

In community,

Heidi Parmenter, Business Administrator

Year	Certified Members	Year	Certified Members
2012	425	2007	251
2011	416	2006	260
2010	372	2005	275
2009	344	2004	305
2008	304	2003	293

Special Valentine's Day Community Night

We will be having a special multigenerational UUCP Community Night on Thursday, February 14th (no Chalice Kids). Celebrate Valentine's Day with your family and UUCP friends as we join with congregations and Unitarian Universalists across the country in participating in:



After a festive potluck in the sanctuary with dinner music provided by Connie Jahrmarkt, we will listen to a brief presentation by Caroline Picker from the Restoration Project of Phoenix. Caroline will teach us how to draw pictures and write “love” letters that will pass inspection for delivery to immigrant detainees. The recipients of these letters and pictures will be migrants who have been detained, often for many months, by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. These men and women will appreciate knowing that they are not forgotten. We hope to uplift their spirits with kind, encouraging words.

We will have a second service project in the Johnson Room especially for younger children and their parents. For this project, we will sort and label needed items for the families of immigrant detainees. These supplies will be donated by the congregation and distributed to families in need by Puente, one of our partner organizations through Arizona Immigration Ministry.

What should you wear to this special UUCP Community Night? Something red or pink if you have it or wear your Standing on the Side of Love shirt!

What should you bring?

- (1) Please bring an extra-special potluck dish to share to make this a delicious and celebratory meal.
- (2) You can bring a favorite pen or markers if you wish or some special stationery, but there will be paper, envelopes, and writing tools available.
- (3) If you want to donate something to families of detainees, please bring one or more items from the list published in the “Help Us Celebrate Thirty Days of Love” article on page 20. We will be collecting the items at the Social Action table on Sunday mornings and at UUCP Community Nights through February 14th.

Thank you for participating in this special night where we will open our hearts to love! For more information on Thirty Days of Love, visit <http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/30daysoflove/>.

Senior-i-T February “Love-In”

Wednesday, February 20th, 2:00-4:00 pm
Johnson Room

Inspired by the Unitarian Universalist Association’s *Standing on the Side of Love* “Thirty Days of Love” campaign, our February Senior-i-T program will offer a variety of ways to love ourselves, our congregation, and the community beyond our doors. Participants* will have an opportunity to engage in one or more of a variety of activities: hand and foot massage, Funeral Consumers’ Alliance informational session, board and card games, letter-writing to incarcerated detainees (including becoming a pen pal if interested), and a congregational service project (possibly messy, but fun, so dress accordingly). Of course, there will be refreshments and time for socializing!

*Participants must be at least 60 years of age (sorry, youngsters)! If you’d like to attend but need a ride, please contact Rev. Linda as soon as possible and we’ll see what we can do to provide transportation: 602-840-8400, Ext. 204 or lindalawrence@phoenixuu.org.

The Gift of Childhood

When my son Patrick was in the fourth grade, he went to a new school, where it was promptly discovered his reading skills were much more advanced than his classmates. As a result, he went to reading class with the fifth graders, and as luck would have it, he was cast as Hamlet in the school’s performance for the annual Shakespeare Festival. Every year, Denver Public Schools takes over downtown Denver with multiple stages and hundreds of performances of Shakespeare vignettes, dances and games.

I went to the performance, armed with a borrowed video camera, already feeling pretty pleased because Patrick was both the youngest and the star of his school’s performance. He did not disappoint. In spite of an orthodontist appointment the day before and painful tightening of his braces that caused a little slurring of his words, he owned the role. All three judges plastered big red ribbons on his chest and the recording ends with me exclaiming, “Patrick was amazing!”

Needless to say, this was a proud parenting moment for me. Here was my kid, clearly exceptional and AD-VANCED for his age. I can still call up the feeling I had watching him, even though it was some time ago, and I feel that all-over glow of parental pride.

I asked Patrick about his Hamlet performance recently. Now 26, I had to remind him of the when and where and how he won all those ribbons. “Oh yeah,” he said. “I sort of remember that.” Apparently, it was not as significant an event to him as it was to me.

How could this be? One of my finest parenting moments was pretty much a non-issue to the kid involved.

It is a tough lesson to be reminded that parental aspirations and pride are not always well aligned to what matters or even what is best for most to kids. I always wanted my kids to be exceptional and advanced, which seems to be a pretty common feeling for many parents.

At the UU Early Education Cooperative Preschool, we have three classes, divided by age. The two-year-olds come two days a week, the three-year-olds are here three days a week, and the big kids, the pre-kindergarten

From the Staff...

kiddos, are here Monday–Friday. I love all the classes, but I do have a special affection for the two-year-olds, where you get to watch the practically daily transition from babyhood to childhood. Many of the kids who barely talk when they start in September will now lead me around the classroom and describe everything they encounter. I love to watch them run. They kick their feet out and land rather indelicately on one plodding foot after the other.

Like me, many of the preschool parents revel in the ways their children are advanced, and it is not uncommon that we get requests for the children to be placed in the next-up age group class, and sometimes we agree. We do see wide ranges in development in each class, and it is pretty common to see a single child with development in one area that surpasses his or her peers, only to be behind in other areas.

Our long-time lead teacher and all around child development guru, Teacher Doug, is fond of saying, “Why not give your child the gift of childhood?” In our well-meaning efforts to do what is best for our children, we sometimes confuse what is meaningful for us with what is meaningful for children. Children only get to be young once. They will have their whole lives to advanced, so in our preschool, they get to be kids.

Central to our philosophy at UUEEC is celebrating the development of our students at every age and stage. While we have a scope and sequence designed to help kids into the next stage of development, we believe advances come best from the full experience of what comes before. It is true that the two-year-olds need to fully master walking before they can run and also true that kids need to be allowed to be just who they are at the age they are.

We have two-years-olds who are more conversant than pre-kindergarten students and three-year-olds who are starting to read, both of which are skills that translate well to the academic demands of kindergarten. But, the same two-year-old cannot fully push the pedals on a trike and the three-year-old is very shy with his peers, both characteristics that would make kindergarten tough for these kids.

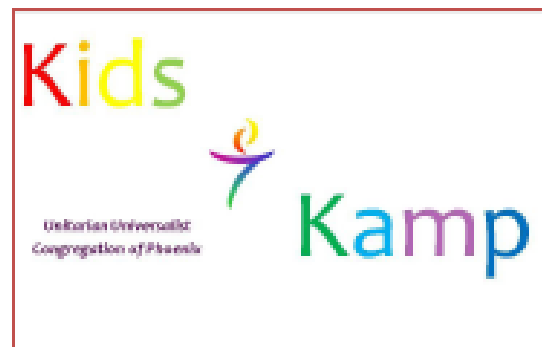
I tried to sign Patrick up for a theatre group after his exceptional and advanced rendition of Hamlet, but his response was, “Aww mom, I’d rather play soccer.” Patrick was a fine soccer player but not especially exceptional or advanced at the game. My good sense prevailed as I was reminded it was about him and letting him be the kid he wanted and needed to be.

At UUEEC, we give kids the gift of childhood and help parents do the same. It is a precious gift and one that lasts only the briefest of times.

Anne Byrne
Director of Children’s Ministries

Director Anne is going to Camp!

Director Anne will get her first Camp de Benneville Pines experience with the family camp coming up in February. Come along and keep her company! Camp de Benneville Pines Winter Family Camp will take place during President’s Day Weekend, February 16-18. Our own Melinda Merkel Iyer is Dean of the Camp, so a good time will be had by all. For more information, check out: www.uucamp.org/camps/2013/PSWD/elem_winter/ElemWinter2013.html



Preschool and Kids Kamp Open House

Come learn more about UUCP's two exemplary youth programs.

Bring your kids and experience the fun!

Saturday, February 23,

9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

See the programs in action and preregister your children for the 2013-14 preschool year and/or 2014 summer day camp.

Play-based preschool

Cooking

Drumming

Dance

Hands on Science

Community and Family Engagement

Teen Mentoring

Active fun!

Meet the teachers and get an early registration discount!

Join the Fun at Parents' Night Out

February 15, March 22, April 26, and May 10
5:30-8:30 p.m.

Enjoy a night to yourself while your children engage in discovery and science-based activities with Teachers Kristen and Val. Dinner is provided, and pajamas are encouraged! The cost is \$25 for the 1st child, and \$15 for the 2nd child in a family. Ages 2-12. Reservations are required and must be submitted to Director Anne (annebyrne@phoenixu.org) by Thursday prior to the event.



Crayon candle making is science at its best at Parent's Night Out!



Shaving cream and foam blocks make for interesting sculptures.

Who the Heck is the Holy Ghost? –or– Do, Re, Me and the Seven Principles

I have an abundance of information available at my fingertips in my office jam packed with years of religious education materials. I often pick something up and read a few pages or paragraphs while I am eating lunch or procrastinating some other task. Recently, I read about the formation of the Unitarian church, some 400 years ago, by scattered groups of people in Europe who came to believe in God's unity as one, as opposed to the prevailing belief of God as a trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Hence the “uni” in Unitarian.

I was raised with this trinity in my Catholic upbringing, but for the life of me, I couldn't recall who or what the Holy Ghost represents. I made the sign of the cross many times in church and at home and mumbled “the father, son and the holy ghost” over and over. So why was I drawing a blank? Was this a failure of my religious education? How could that be possible? After all, I won the pin for best girl catechism student in the third grade.

So, I typed in “holy ghost” in the Google search bar, and the most concrete thing I could find was that the holy ghost is the “father” of Jesus' virgin birth. Spiritual sperm, I guess. There was a lot of other stuff, but by this time, I had lost interest. This is typical of my short attention span, but also of the reason I let go of my Catholic and Christian identity a long time ago. My inherent skepticism prevents me from engaging seriously with these mystical beliefs. That was a nice way of saying it seems like a bunch of baloney to me. (DISCLAIMER! Of course, as a good UU, I honor and respect other beliefs, search for truth and the wisdom of all world religions, but this is all about me!).

A friend of mine came into town over the holidays, and I was bringing her up to date on my job, and she asked the question so many of us encounter as UU's—what do we believe? I explained about the seven principles and tried to recite them, but failed because my memorization skills leave a bit to be desired. So, instead, I sang her the Do, Re, Me version of the principles that we sing with the kids. She applauded as I finished and said, “You had me at the ‘Each person is important.’ Sign me up!”

As often happens, the song stuck in my head and I have been singing it in the car, at my desk, in the shower, and everywhere. It was running through my brain as I read about the early Unitarians' affirmation of the unity of God and release of the belief in the trinity, with its father, son and holy ghost. The contrast between our seven principles (even the Do, Re, Me version) and the trinity was pretty stark and significant to me.

Instead of a mystical belief in three-part God, or any god for that matter, the principles offer daily and universal guidance in living life in the here and now. I love these principles! So, I offer up the Do, Re, Me version for you to sing with your kids (or by yourself) in the car, shower and at your desk. May it be stuck there every day.

One, each person is important
Two, be kind in all you do
Three, we're free to learn together
Four, and search for what is true
Five, all people need a voice
Six, create a peaceful world
Seven, we care for earth's lifeboat
That will bring us back to me and UU

Anne Byrne
Director of Children's Ministries

Notes from the Edge... of our Youth Ministry Programs

Hopefully, you attended February 3rd's worship service, presented by our high school youth group, where you heard why they feel connected to UUCP and each other, and what it is that draws them to be part of our faith, our congregation and our community. (And if you're reading this before the 3rd, make sure you go!) Our youth advisors (Sarah Montgomery, Geoff Anderla, Kathryn Kosmider and me – all of whom were actually raised as UUs) as well as some of our Coming of Age teachers (Caitlin Tuffin, Jen Hempel and Jeff Newman) have also discussed the reasons they feel drawn to working with our youth. As they relayed their passions and interests in working with and for our youth, I felt my heart swell with delight and gratitude. I was reminded how fortunate we are to have a team that is both committed to, and happy to be part of our youth ministry.

It would be easy to surmise that working with our teens is fun and uncomplicated. But beyond that, I found our leaders and teachers do what they do not just because they are asked to serve, but because it is important to provide a safe foundation on which our kids can explore, ask questions and prepare themselves to be adult members of our congregations, our communities and – most importantly – our world. Sarah Montgomery explains that “I grew up in a tiny Unitarian Universalist fellowship, and in high school I only knew a few other UUs. High school is such a tough time, and I really could have benefited from being part of a loving, open-minded, accepting community where I could explore my own faith with other teens. As an adult, I volunteer as a youth group advisor to help build that community for the next generation.”

Our youth continue to encourage and inspire us as much as we try to instill in each of them a sense of wonder, dignity, compassion and tolerance. “I have learned so much from working with the youth of this church. They have been some of the best teachers in my life!” says Jen Hempel, who has worked with our junior high school COA (Coming of Age) and OWL (Our Whole Lives) programs for the past several years.

UUCP's youth leaders are charged with selecting topics for discussion, formulating lesson plans and adapting new curricula. Beyond that, they are trained to recognize and be sensitive to the issues our youth face during these teenage years. For many of our kids, church is the first place they will risk sharing their thoughts, doubts and dreams with people who are not family, and those who work with our kids have to be prepared for that challenge. Kathryn Kosmider, who grew up in a Unitarian Universalist congregation and joined the youth group after changing high schools in tenth grade, says, “Being a teen is rough, and moving into a small high school can be very difficult. Joining other UU teens each Sunday made it easy to make friends and find others who had similar values. I work with our youth to help create that same friendly, open environment for our youth here.”

My gratitude for all of our youth leaders is overwhelming. And the best part is that each of our leaders has a similar sense of gratitude for the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our youth. The relationships we form within our groups are healthy and reciprocal. We offer guidance and support, and in return, we get laughter, comfort, inspiration, and most of all, joy. “Youth bring curiosity and passion to life if we just let them. I remember being a youth and wrestling with and enjoying the wonderful mysteries of life. I will always be grateful to the adults who encouraged me, who challenged me, and who had faith in me. This is my way of paying it forward. Also, it gives me great joy to work with such extraordinary kids,” says Jeff Newman, and I could not agree more!

Submitted with love by Jaynn Truran, Youth Ministry Coordinator

LOVE IS IN THE AIR!

Be sure to stop by CUPID'S MARKET on February 10, for all of your special Valentine's Day gifts. Please join our Coming of Age community (students, families and mentors) on the patio before and after services for this fun-filled fundraiser. The group will be selling delicious baked goods, candles, stuffed animals and other small gifts for Valentine's Day (or any day!). We will also have UUCP shopping bags and drink bottles for sale. Our students are raising money for their end of the year graduation trip (destination TBD), and everyone needs at least one (dozen) yummy chalice cookies or brownies, right!?

SO YOU THINK YOU CAN BOWL?

You are cordially invited to a fun afternoon of bowling and bonding at the AMF Lanes (32nd Street/Indian School) on Sunday, March 10, right after services (12:00-2:00 pm). For a suggested donation of just \$10 per person*, you will enjoy two hours of challenging action on the alleys, with the added bonus of wearing shoes that have been worn by lots of other fascinating people! This special afternoon is a fundraiser for our high school youth ministry program, and all proceeds will help support that program. Come out and meet our youth, who will be mingling among the crowd, offering helpful bowling strategies and tips for better living. The first 50 people to sign up (you are encouraged to sign up on the front porch on Sunday mornings, but it is not mandatory) are asked to donate \$10 per person. (*After we hit 50 people, the fee will revert to the alley's customary rate of \$14 per person, so sign up today!)

Good Grief—New Group

Third Saturdays
February 16th, 10:00-11:30 am
Annex C

Do you need a safe and nonjudgmental place to share some thoughts and feelings about the grief you have over the death of a loved one? Would you like some inspiration and support to help you cope with your loss(es)? If so, we hope you will join us on the third Saturday of the month. We will meet for an hour or ninety minutes (depending upon the size of the group) to honor one another's journey through bereavement. Please feel free to bring a photo or other memento of your loved one.

Good Grief will be facilitated by our Assistant Minister, Rev. Linda Lawrence, and our Affiliated Minister, Rev. Kathy Baughman. Rev. Linda works with our Unicare Committee and provides some of the pastoral care to UUCP members and friends. Rev. Kathy is a chaplain at Mayo Clinic who supports our Lead and Assistant Ministers with pastoral care to the congregation as needed. Both women are experienced in working with individuals and groups around issues of grief.

This group is primarily for adults and older teens. No sign-up is required and there is no fee. If you have questions, please contact Rev. Linda at 602-840-8400, Ext. 204.

Adult Faith Development

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

February 3rd is the last Sunday morning to sign up at the Welcome Table in the foyer! Please let us know if you will need childcare for either or both sessions.

For more information about this program for prospective new members, 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.

UU PRINCIPLES

Sundays, February 17th through March 10th
9:00-10:45 am, 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 out 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. Stop by the Book Table or call the office to register.

OASIS IN THE DESERT CONTINUES!

Thursday, February 21st
Time Change: 6:45-8:00 pm, Annex B
Facilitator: Uli Boecker

There was a lot of interest and participation in this new program so we have decided to extend it on a monthly basis for at least the next few months. Therefore, it is extremely important to register each month so that we can plan accordingly. We would hate to have to turn you away if we are short of space and/or materials. 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.

Please join us for dinner at the 6:00 pm UUCP Community Night potluck in the Johnson Room. Afterwards, relax at this mini-retreat in Annex B. Led by our own knowledgeable and experienced professional, Uli Boecker, we will learn and experience stress-relieving modalities for mind, body, and spirit. This month, we will explore some of the benefits and techniques of acupressure and reflexology. Participants will learn to work on themselves and, if comfortable doing so, will also have an opportunity to take turns helping one another dissipate the stresses of the day.

Please note that there is no fee for this retreat, but we will ask for donations that will go to the congregation. We forgot to put the basket out in January so any repeat attendees can feel free to donate towards both sessions!

SEARCH FOR HAPPINESS

NEW DATES: February 21 & 28
6:30-8:00 pm, Annex H

Search for Happiness has been rescheduled. We are happy to again have Diane Mote to facilitate this class. Diane, an author and Licensed Professional Counselor, will compare quotes and brief excerpts from two New York Times best-selling books on happiness, books with radically opposing views: *The Secret* by Rhonda Byrne and *Happier* by Tan Ben-Shahar. There is no need to read the books in advance in order to attend this class. Diane will provide materials in class to prompt discussion about how the authors' ideas fit with participants' values and lives.

If you've already purchased a \$35 UU Studies Pass at the Book Table, you can use it to be admitted to this class. For those without a pass, the cost for the class is \$10 payable at the Book Table in the back of the sanctuary on any Sunday morning or payable at the first class meeting. Whether you have a pass, pay at the Book Table in advance, or plan to pay when you come to class, you must register in advance! Please sign up at the Book Table on Sundays or call the office at 602-840-8400, Ext. 200 and leave a message for one of our Office Volunteers.

COMPASSIONATE COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP

Saturday, March 9th
9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Johnson Room
Facilitators: Julie Wambach and Sandy Thomson
Cost: \$10 includes lunch—sorry, no UU Studies Passes

Compassionate Communication shows us how to manage our communication flow so we exchange information and resolve differences peacefully. You will learn to:

- Create more satisfying human connections,
- Honor your own and others' values,
- Increase goodwill, not resentment or lowered self-esteem,
- Emphasize responsibility, not fear or blame,
- Build cooperation, not frustration,
- Heal from previous experiences that have been painful.

To register, email Julie Wambach (azwambach@earthlink.net) or Sandy Thomson (sjthomson@cox.net).

EXPLORING CULTURE AND PREJUDICE

Sundays, March 17th through April 7th
9:00-10:30 am
Annex B

This course, led by Gene Cherry, begins in March and explores accepting differences and overcoming prejudices based on ideas from Colin Woodard's *American Nations* and Jonathan Haidt's *The Righteous Mind*. You need not have read these books to attend. Please see the 2012-2013 UUCP Program Catalog online at www.phoenixuu.org for more information. Stop by the Book Table or call the office to register.

Help UUCP Celebrate



Our congregation is participating in Standing on the Side of Love's "Thirty Days of Love" action*, a program of the Unitarian Universalist Association. On Sunday, January 27th, we began collecting items to be shared with families of immigrant detainees. There are boxes for these needed items at the Social Action Table in the back of the sanctuary. We will continue to collect these helpful items at the Social Action table through Sunday, February 10th. You can also bring your donations with you to UUCP Community Night on Thursday, February 14th (please see the UUCP Community Night article on page 10). Your gifts to families of detainees will be distributed by Puente, one of our partner organizations through Arizona Immigration Ministry.

Here is the list of items that we are collecting. We ask that you donate one or more things to this loving cause if you are able:

- Empty, permanent water bottle
- Phone calling card so families can call their detained family member
- Diapers
- Feminine products
- Kitchen utensils
- Blankets
- Art supplies for kids: envelopes, paper, crayons/markers
- Stuffed animals, comfort objects or small toys for kids
- Disposable cameras
- Gift certificates to a store where families can get photos developed to send to detainees

Thank you for participating in this special night where we will open our hearts to love!

* For more information on Thirty Days of Love, visit <http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/30daysoflove/>.

Share the Plate with 30 Days of Love

Share the Plate on February 17th participates in the "Thirty Days of Love" (from Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to Valentine's Day), and benefits programs of the Unitarian Universalist Association, our nationwide association of UU Congregations. See stories of love in action at www.standingonthesideoflove.org.

This is a wonderful time to connect with others who are dedicated to standing on the side of love, and to support our Association together!

Do you have passion for an organization aligned with our values that deserves our support in "Share the Plate"? See our website for the application and guidelines, and apply! Questions to sharetheplate@phoenixuu.org.

Finance Committee

After several months of running a deficit, the finance committee has the good news that pledge contributions in December were strong and the budget now shows a slightly positive amount of a few thousand dollars. 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 2013, statements will be provided to all members concerning their support for the 2012 calendar year (January 2012 through December 2012 for tax purposes) as well as the current received pledges for the fiscal year (July 2012 through December 2012).

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 to write checks as the payments are withdrawn 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.

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, 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the UUCP Sanctuary.

February 8: *In Search of Gross National Happiness: Our Trip to Bhutan* with Don & Judy Peters
In 2002, our planned trip to Nepal was cancelled by uprisings and we decided to go to Bhutan, a Himalayan kingdom north of India. We found a magical place, unlike any other. The people we met were the happiest we have encountered anywhere. In addition to traveling by van along the national road through all the major population centers, we also took a four-day hike along the Bumthang Trek. We look forward to sharing our experiences and pictures with you.

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.

UUCP Sewing and Craft Circle

February 9th, drop in between 11:00 am and 4:00 pm

Join other crafters in a relaxed setting any time between 11:00 and 4:00 in the Johnson Room on Saturday, February 9th. The stitchers make very simple clothing and quilts for refugees and shelter residents. People who knit or crochet make caps, shrugs, and lap blankets. 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 or lori.rubin-williamson@sage.com. Newcomers are always welcome—check us out!

Social Action News

FEBRUARY SOCIAL ACTION LUNCHEON: LAURIE ROBERTS OF *ARIZONA REPUBLIC*

The Social Action Committee is excited to present Laurie Roberts, columnist from the *Arizona Republic*, at our next Luncheon on Sunday, February 17th at 12:30 pm in the Johnson Room. Please join us for a fascinating discussion on what's happening at the state Capitol, and get an update on Laurie's efforts to "de-kook" our state's legislature. There will be plenty of time for discussion and questions so don't miss this special event.

Lunch will be catered by New Day Gourmet and available to everyone for a suggested donation of \$5.00. Reservations are not required, just an interest in your state government and a desire to learn.

By the way, if you would like to be involved in selecting speakers and topics for SAC Luncheons please join us at our monthly meetings on the second Sunday of each month following the second service in Annex H. For more information contact Trent Tripp at trenttripp10@gmail.com or stop by the SAC Table after either service.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SERVICE COMMITTEE

Here are some UUSC reflections of 2012, a few of many highlights, thanks to you, our members and supporters:

10 Tire Gardens in Haiti—feeds a family in rural Haiti and provides enough produce to sell at market for income—Eco-Village in rural Haiti.

37 Tons of Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, Chocolate and other products that UU congregations support through the UUSC Coffee Project to boost the livelihoods of small farmers.

80 Imams and women leaders in Darfur trained to use a Qur'anic basis for the protection of women.

2,723 Actions by UUSC supporters to ensure the passage and implementation of human-right-to-water legislation in California.

3,300 Approximate number of times that supporters accessed the *National Diners' Guide* by the Restaurant Opportunities Centers United, a UUSC partner standing up for restaurants workers' rights.

Your membership in UUSC advances human rights in 23 countries. Are you part of this humanitarian organization? Join or renew your membership at www.uusc.org or see Heather McLellan, our congregation's UUSC representative.

Health Meditation for Very Busy Minds

In the last issue of *Horizons*, I wrote a simple way to get started doing meditation for health:

“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.”

If counting numbers does not work for you, there is another way that may help:

When you take a very deep breath and then hold it by pinching your nose, your mind is forced to stay focused on that held breath. It is difficult to think even intentionally during those moments. Start by holding the breath for a count of five, and then slowly let it out. If you can do this six times, you will feel definite change in monkey mind activity.

You can also do this by breathing from one nostril (A) while keeping the other (B) pinched, then shifting position to pinch A and open B. Hold the breath for five counts and then let it out slowly through the nostril B. Then breathe deep and slow through nostril B and reverse the sequence. Do this six times alternating nostrils. This practice is called Pranayama or “the control of the life force.” You should feel better control of the monkey mind after that.

If you do not feel that this breathing exercise quiets your mind sufficiently to enable you to do the meditation of counting breaths or any other technique, you may need to do guided meditation for a few minutes as well, before starting the self-guided practice. Our Sunday morning meditation group starts with Pranayama and then listens to relaxation suggestions. It then does quiet meditation for about half an hour prior to the first service. You are welcome to join that group in Annex B at 8:45 am. Come earlier if you are coming for the first time and have questions. I am usually there at 8:30 am.

Jay Alagia

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

From the Archive: More on Cabaret!

from UUCP Archivist/Historian Charlotte Carl-Mitchell

Cabaret, the annual musical variety show/fundraiser, started in 1975. It was the creation of choir director Oonagh Sykes. She conducted the choir from 1975 to 1980. In advertising the May 30, 1975 initial show, Oonagh said it would be a gala evening of sharing talent. There would be candlelight, beer, wine, cheese, music, dance and song. All for the low price of \$2, only \$1 for those 18 and younger. She encouraged church members to share a song, a dance, some music or a favorite poem.

Jay Finkelstein was organist and choir accompanist in 1975. In 1977, Ed Grobe was hired as the church organist and played for Cabaret as well. The show was in March in 1977 and 1978. The 1978 event made \$325. In the early years there wasn't a theme, but that eventually changed.



The choir in 1983. Back row, left to right: Jean Lawton, Ed Grobe, Dan Wilkinson, Frank Hermann, Ken Walker and Felice Bews. Second row from top: Eleanor Mast, Arden Torbert, Sally Norman (Choir Director), Dorothy Johnson, Marie Walling, Siri James, Jay Finkelstein. Third row down: Joyce Steiner, Helen Price, Ann Walker, Ellie Murphy, Jerry Whalin. Front row: Faith Parker, Joanne Michael

Cabaret 1985, the "10th Anniversary Extravaganza" is the earliest show the archives contains information on. According to the poster Jean Lawton made, Hal Howard was the MC and tickets were \$5. The choir director at that time was Sally Norman. In 1988, the title of Cabaret was "Celebrating Arizona – A Touch of Western Class." Alvin Marcus was the choir director in 1988 and Ed Grobe played the piano for the show.



Left, a still from the 1988 Cabaret video showing Pauline Gay, Ginny DeMarco and Joanne Michael singing "Pistol Pack'in Momma." Right, Flappers entertain in the 1990 Cabaret. From the left, Pauline Gay, Ginny DeMarco, Joanne Michael, Ruth Thistlethwaite, Sharon Gaio Hise and Trena Allen.

Ministry and Committee Reports...

In 1990 the show had a Broadway theme. The choir director was Ken Walker and the pianist was Jay Finklestein. In 1994, Cabaret was described as a Vaudeville Fun Fest. Ken Johnson conducted the choir from January 1994 through June 1995. According to Jerry Whalin, "Under Ken's direction, the sound of the choir greatly improved, as did its morale. People called his 1994 Cabaret the best one we put on."



Left, Ed Grobe and Jay Finkelstein play a duet in Cabaret 1996. Middle, the cast in hippie attire. Right, Joanne, Sharon and Pauline sing 'Downtown' by Petula Clark.

Cabaret 1996 was entitled "Remembering the 1960's" and was produced by music director Rick Zielinski. He was very well organized and had a booklet made for show members that included the final rehearsal schedule, a task list, a list of the acts and the first page of the music for every song.

Connie was hired as accompanist in September 1997, then the choir director, Karen Kennedy, quit in November and Connie became interim choir director in early 1998. There wasn't a Cabaret that year so the next year's show in 1999 was her first. The theme was "A Desert Home Companion."



Left, Connie, Linda Bunyard and Celeste Rogers sang an Albanian Wedding Song in the 1999 Cabaret. Right, the Hopeless Gospel Quartet, Bill Snowden, Joyce Short, Pat Shannon and an unidentified man (possibly John Williamson) sang two spirituals.

Continued...

Ministry and Committee Reports...

Connie has organized and directed 13 more shows: 2000, A Tribute to Gershwin; 2001, Classic Rock with the Music of the Beatles; 2002, A Folk Music Coffee House; 2003, Love Music Hippie Style; 2004, Country Western Music; 2005, A Night in the Tropics; 2006, A Really Big Show, Ed Sullivan Style; 2007, The USO Tours; 2008, Colorific Cabaret; 2009, Hittin' the Road; 2010, Hard Times, Good Tunes, Great Music; 2011, UUCP The Musical Revue; and 2012, Just the Music. This year's Cabaret is Saturday, February 23rd. Doors open at 6:30 and the show starts at 7:00. Hope to see you there!



Left, Joyce Short, Bob Leesley, and Pat Shannon in 2000. Middle, Ed Grobe in 2003. Right, Myra Banks in 2005.



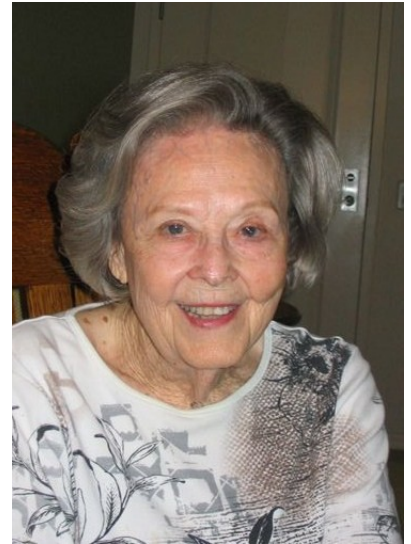
Left, Smoot Carl-Mitchell, Richard Jahrmark, Joyce Short and Myra Banks as the Grandmamas and Grandpapas in 2006. Middle, 2007 the Rockettes of Ages, Charlotte Carl-Mitchell, Ginny DeMarco, Paula Adkins, Sharon Hise, Pauline Gay and Susan Morris. Right, Bill Snowden and Joan Gale in 2008.



Left, Kat Crabtree, Kelly Madison and Kate Brodaski sang Istanbul in 2009. Right, Joanne Michael, Sharon Hise, Tucky Fussell and Paula Adkins in 2011.

Friendship Partners: Billye Butler

Long-time UUCP member Billye Butler grew up in Lohn, a farming community in southwest Texas. Her family attended the Church of Christ, one of three in Lohn. Billye says that even then, as a youngster, she questioned the teachings that this was the true church and that its members only would go to heaven. She could not reconcile this with knowing so many good school-mates. After graduating from high school, she attended business school in San Angelo and then worked as a secretary at the Bombadier Base. On Valentine's Day, 1942, Billye went to a USO dance and box supper at the adjoining Goodfellow Field. An Oklahoma serviceman, Kermit Butler, bought her supper. They married one year later on February 14th. Their marriage lasted for 68 years and produced four, great children, Roger, Jan, Brett and Ross.



Billye and Kermit shared their doubts about traditional, religious teachings. Kermit, who had been raised Baptist, told Billye that he had once asked his minister, "If God created wine by turning water into wine, why is it wrong to drink wine?" Needless to say, they were not regular church-goers in their early years of marriage.

After his discharge from the service in 1945, Kermit took advantage of the GI Bill and attended the University of Oklahoma, majoring in Business Administration. He also worked as the university photographer and was recognized by having a trilobite (a Paleozoic anthropod) named after him for his excellent photograph of the specimen.

Billye and Kermit were first introduced to Unitarianism in Tulsa, where they attended All Souls Church. Billye reports they finally felt very much "at home." Their visit to the church was prompted because Kermit noticed a church posting quotations by Emerson and other Unitarians and commented upon this to Billye.

The couple had become acquainted with Phoenix as one of Billye's brothers lived here and, wishing to leave Tulsa, in 1956 they packed themselves and three children into a Studebaker sedan, hitched a trailer to it and very slowly made their way to Phoenix. Billye said that the only people they passed were a couple in a horse and wagon.

Kermit obtained his license and became a real estate broker in Phoenix. In 1958, they began attending UU services at the Jewish Community Center on 16th St., led by then-minister Rev. Arthur Olsen. They soon became members of the congregation. Billye was a church office volunteer but her fondest memories are of working with the Women's Alliance. She reminisced about bazaar fundraisers that provided for the asphaltting of the parking lot, installation of sanctuary carpeting, and a stipend for a Starr King student. After one bazaar which raised \$6,000 but finished so late there was no way to bank the cash, she as the Alliance treasurer took the profits home and put it under her mattress. She said that she was going to guard the hard-earned money with her life!

Billye is visited by Friendship Partners Ellie Anderla, Rev. Linda Lawrence, Julie Smart and Judy Lambert. She also regularly speaks to Ellie Murphy and receives the latest church news.

Unicare News

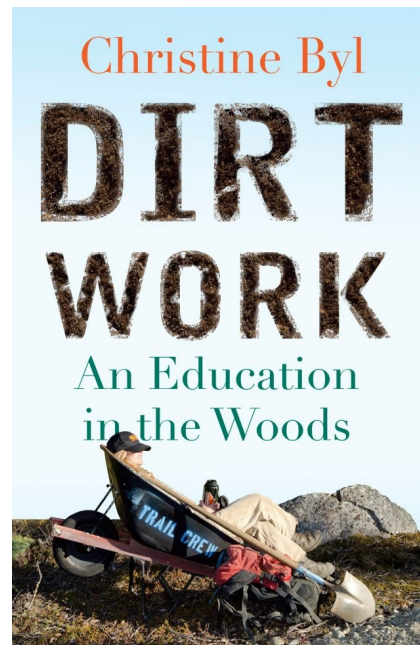
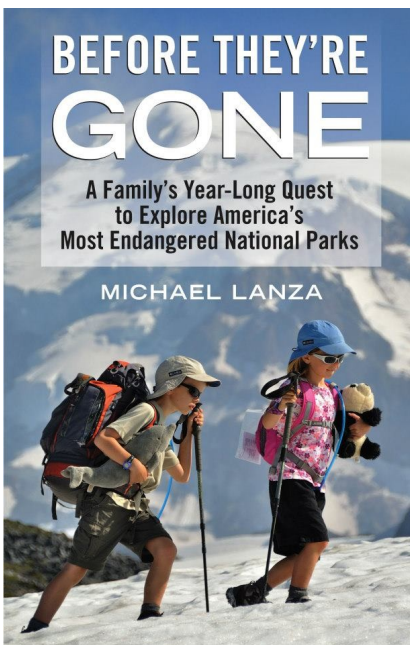
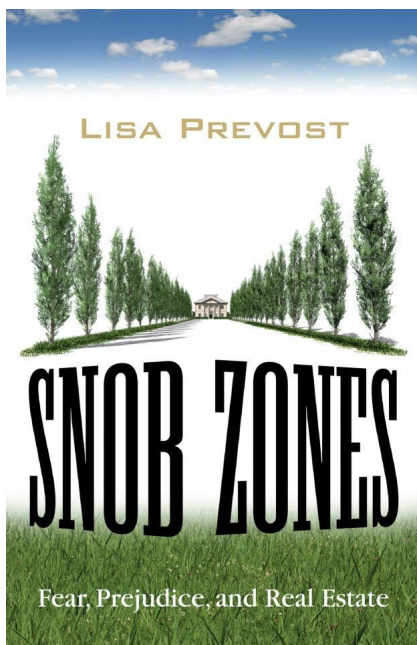
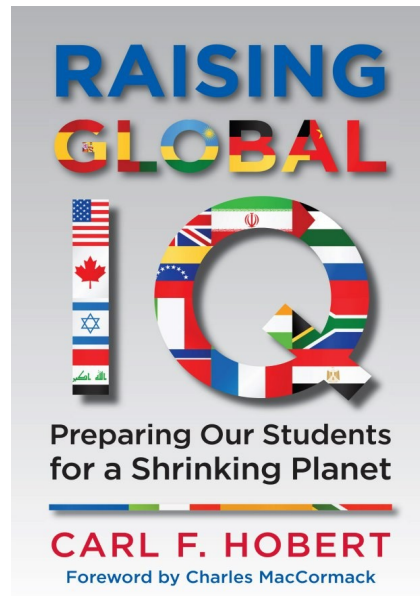
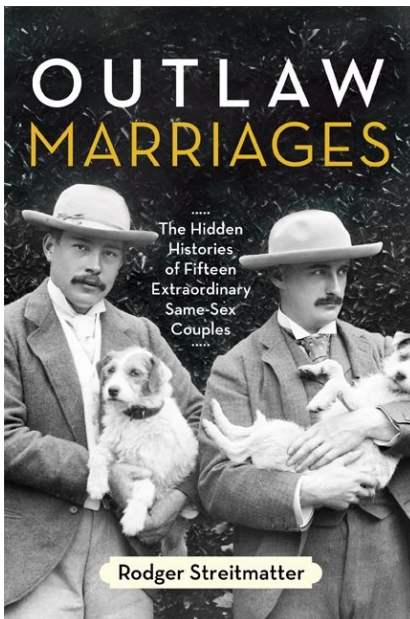
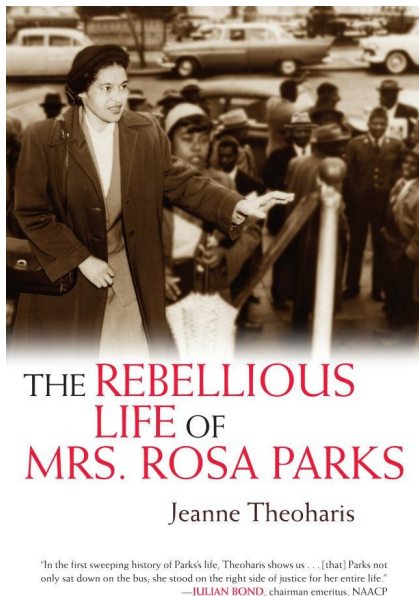
The end of 2012 and beginning of 2013 brought our community many opportunities for support, encouragement, and celebration:

- ◇ Sharon Hise's niece recently suffered a mild stroke and has been diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes. We wish her a full recovery and hope she is able to adjust to this diagnosis and return to normal activities.
- ◇ Paul Daniels was in an auto accident and, as a result of the accident, doctors discovered multiple myeloma. Paul is undergoing chemotherapy and has been in and out of the hospital since December. We hold Paul, his wife Debra, and their family in our thoughts as Paul works to recover from these setbacks.
- ◇ Lissa Heider, a friend of the congregation and member of the Sewing and Craft group, was recently diagnosed with a progressive neuromuscular disease for which there is no known cure. She has moved from her home to an assisted living facility. Let us surround her with love and support as she attempts to cope with all of the changes she has made and all of those she will be facing.
- ◇ Susan Morris's father died in December and at the time of this writing, Susan has been in Colorado for some time at her mother's hospice bedside. We hold you in our hearts, Susan, during this time of great transition in the life of your family.
- ◇ Michael Hipps lost a friend, Neil Cohen, at the too early age of 48. We are sorry for your loss, Michael.
- ◇ Our sympathy also goes out to Melinda Iyer following the unexpected death of her 21-year-old nephew.
- ◇ Kat Crabtree has struggled with some breathing issues for several months but seems to be better after checking in with a pulmonologist. Hurray!
- ◇ Many in our congregation have encountered the winter "bugs" that are being passed around. Take good care! We are especially glad to have Connie and Richard Jahrmarkt back in action after their long-lasting upper respiratory problems, and we wish Jaynn Truran (and all others who have suffered with these colds and flus) a speedy recovery.
- ◇ Cherilyn Walley came through surgery well and her partner, Dena, is also resolving some of her health issues. Thanks to all who provided meals following Cherilyn's surgery.
- ◇ Joan Roberts had hip replacement surgery in January, and we are thankful that she is recovering well.
- ◇ Gretchen Manker fell and broke her other hip when she fainted after dialysis. Ever the trooper, she is doing well in rehab and hopes to be back home by the time this newsletter is published.
- ◇ Joan Fitz-Randolph, a former active member, has been hospitalized due to high blood pressure and medication issues but is home now. We welcome her into our Friendship Partners program and are glad she's feeling better.
- ◇ We were glad and relieved to hear that Sandra Schaffer got a great report from her last check-up! Now when the flood damage and remodeling are finished, perhaps life can get back to an enjoyable "normal" for a good long while!
- ◇ Bonnie and Dave Cunningham celebrate the birth of their first grandchild, Lauren Chandler Cunningham, who was born in Tulsa, OK, on December 20th. Congratulations!
- ◇ We are thrilled that Ceyshe' Napa, our Unicare Coordinator, got to march in the Navajo Nation Band in the Inaugural Day parade! Did you see her on TV?!

Thanks for caring,
Rev. Linda



Coming from Beacon Press Spring 2013





LOUISVILLE NAMED TOP TRAVEL DESTINATION

The world's leading travel publisher, Lonely Planet, names the host city for the 2013 UUA General Assembly THE [top travel destination for 2013](#).

2013 IS AN ELECTION YEAR

The UUA will conduct its next election on Saturday, June 22, 2013. Absentee ballots will be sent to congregations at least 45 days prior to General Assembly and will be due June 12, 2013. Positions to be elected at the 2013 General Assembly are:

- Board of Review
 - Board of Trustees
 - Commission on Appraisal
 - Commission on Social Witness
 - Financial Advisor
 - General Assembly Planning Committee
 - Ministerial Fellowship Committee
 - Nominating Committee
 - Moderator
 - President
- Presidential Search Committee

For more information, read about the [2013 UUA elections](#).

FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

The GA Office and Planning Committee are committed to the goal of making GA accessible to the maximum number of attendees possible. Recognizing that traveling to and participating in General Assembly can be a costly venture, we would like folks to be aware of the following opportunities for financial aid:

Become a Volunteer - The GA Volunteer Committee funds full-time GA registrations in exchange for 24 hours of volunteer work at GA (16 hours for those eligible for reduced registration rates). [Applications for volunteer positions](#) must be submitted by March 31.

Apply for a Scholarship - Secure a pledge of support from your congregation and [apply for a GA Planning Committee scholarship](#). If your application is accepted, the Planning Committee may match your congregation's pledge (up to \$250) and also fund your full-time registration. Apply by March 31.



UUA General Assembly
www.uua.org/ga
generalassembly@uua.org

Celebrations of Life

9:30 AM and 11:15 AM

FEBRUARY 3: THE KIDS ARE ALRIGHT: EXPLORING THE AUTONOMY AND INTERDEPENDENCE OF OUR YOUTH COMMUNITY

Service Leader: YRUU (UUCP's high school group)

Our high school youth group meets each Sunday at 9:30 to share their stories, debate controversial topics, and explore religion and spirituality. They laugh and love and eat and cry together. They challenge each other to be better, to think out of the box, and to act responsibly. Many of you may never even see them, and yet, they are the future of our congregation, our faith, and our world. How can we make sure there is always a place at the table for them, even if they only come for dessert? Come hear from our youth as they tell us what inspires them, what draws them to Unitarian Universalism and each other, and how they complete the beautiful tapestry that is UUCP.

FEBRUARY 10: LIVING BEYOND FEAR

Service Leader: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

Fear is good at holding us back and interfering with our ability to act, speak, love and risk. What is the role of fear in our lives and how do we overcome fear in ways that can free us to live?

FEBRUARY 17: FAITH AND POLITICS

Service Leader: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

The separation of church and state is articulated clearly in the U.S. Constitution. When religion gets involved in politics or advocacy, is that a violation of the separation? To what extent, if at all, ought congregations get engaged in politics?

FEBRUARY 24: "42" IS THE ANSWER!

Service Leader: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

The topic for this sermon, which comes from Douglas Adams' *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, was chosen by Smoot and Charlotte Carl-Mitchell, who won the "Choose the Minister's Sermon" at the annual Auction! If 42 is the answer, what, then, is the question?

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

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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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