



*A Welcoming Congregation*

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

March 2013

## This month at a glance:

- 1—Youth Ministry Lock-in
- 3—New Day Center Meal
- 3—Poetry Coffeehouse
- 8—Traveling 2<sup>nd</sup> Fridays
- 9—Outdoor Group Hike
- 10—Youth Bowling Fundraiser
- 10—Social Action Committee
- 14—Oasis in the Desert
- 14—AFD Movie
- 14—The New UU Class
- 16—Good Grief
- 16—Sewing Circle
- 17—Share the Plate
- 17—Culture and Prejudice Class
- 17—Social Action Luncheon
- 20—Senior-i-Tea
- 21—Preschool Open House
- 22—Parents' Night Out
- 26—Board of Trustees Meeting
- 28—Drum Circle
- 30—Congregational Picnic
- 31—Easter Egg Hunt

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

## ***In this issue...***

Minister's Musings...	3
President's Report...	4-5
From the Staff...	6-15
Ministry and Committee Reports...	16-28
Regional/UUA News...	29-34
Services...	35

## It's Raining—Let's Go Out and Play!

“Uh-oh, it's raining today. Will your preschoolers have to stay inside all day?” asked a friend. “Oh no,” was my reply, “Rain is a big event. The kids will be out stomping through puddles, catching raindrops in buckets and otherwise getting soaking wet.” And so it was today. Several kids were missing their dry change of clothes, so we had an amusing assortment of boys dressed in sweatpants that hit them about mid-calf from the school's assortment of extra clothes.

We don't let obstacles like wet clothes or mess-making stand in the way of a good time at the UU Early Education Cooperative Preschool (UUEEC). In fact, we embrace rain and other natural phenomena as opportunities to experiment with cause and effect, experience nature, inspire questions and prompt activities. “What do you see in the reflection in the puddle?” asked a teacher. “The trees are upside down!” chimed the kids. “What else is upside down?” asked the teacher, and the quest was on to see how the trikes, toys, and people appeared in the puddle reflection. And, of course, there was plenty of opportunity to see the impact when the puddle is disturbed with multiple stomping feet!

Our preschool is an intimate and inviting home for discovery and adventure for our kids and families. We are now recruiting for the 2013-14 school year for kids that will turn 2, 3, and 4 by September 1<sup>st</sup>. Two-year-olds attend twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays; three-year-olds are here Monday, Wednesday and Friday; and our Pre-Kindergarten four-years-olds are here Monday through Friday. For more information on our preschool, please visit during one of our Open Houses, scheduled next for March 22 and April 8, from 9:30-11:30 am. Private tours are also available by contacting Anne Byrne at [annebyrne@phoenixuu.org](mailto:annebyrne@phoenixuu.org). Come join the fun!

Anne Byrne  
Director of Children's Ministries



### So You Think You Can Bowl?

You are cordially invited to a fun afternoon of bowling and bonding at the AMF Lanes (32<sup>nd</sup> Street/Indian School) on Sunday, March 10, right after services (Noon – 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!)

### UUCP Congregational Picnic

Let's celebrate Spring together at the UUCP Congregational Picnic! The Membership Committee has reserved the Papago Ramada (map to be provided later) at the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park, 7301 E. Indian Bend Road, Scottsdale, AZ (southeast corner of Indian Bend and Scottsdale Roads). The picnic will be on Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. The Membership Committee will provide beverages, plates, cups and napkins. Please bring a potluck dish to share. If your last name begins with the letters A through G, bring a main dish; H through M, bring a salad; N through S, bring a side dish; and T through Z, bring a dessert. Spring is coming, come celebrate with us!!



## Potluck Community Nights

**6:00 PM Thursdays  
in the  
Johnson Room**

Please join UUCP staff, members, and friends for food and fellowship every Thursday evening in the Johnson Room starting at 6:00 PM. Bring something to share potluck-style or your own sack supper. Everyone is welcome! Chalice Club activities for kids begin at 6:30 PM.

Contact the office at 602-840-8400 for more info.

## Minister's Musings

When individuals become members of UUCP, we ask them to share something about what led them to want to make the commitment to become a member and join the congregation in living its mission. A few months back, one of our new members, Davier Rodriguez, shared that it was his first experience visiting UUCP that led him to join. He said he remembered walking in the door and the first thing he saw was a Standing on the Side of Love with Immigrant Families signs and not believing his eyes. Then, when he walked into the sanctuary he saw a Rainbow flag, symbolizing pride and support of GLBT people, and again he was both surprised and thrilled. Then, he went to the book table and found books about liberal theology, questioning and compassion. He could not believe that all of these values, this perspective, existed in one community. From that moment, he kept coming, he brought friends and eventually he joined the congregation. It was the welcome, the values, the ways in which we offer an uncommon but needed message of inclusion, exploration and dignity that made him feel at home. Hearing Davier share his story, his experience, reminded me how precious this liberal faith is—and what a gift it is to be a part of it.

Welcome to Stewardship season at UUCP! March and April are the months when we renew our commitment as members and friends to UUCP and make our financial commitments to nurture the health and vitality of this congregation. This act of giving, this time of Stewardship, reminds me to count all the ways that I love Unitarian Universalism; all the ways this congregation makes a difference in my life and in the lives of others; all the ways that I am proud to be a part of this congregation. From this place of gratitude, it feels good to make a significant commitment of financial resources to make sure that this congregation will be healthy, strong and vibrant, making a welcome for all who seek a liberal and life-affirming community. It is my way of contributing to the vision of community I hope to see in the world, my vision of religion in its best and fullest sense, my way of giving to something that is truly ours—that no one but we can care for and nurture. When I give, I truly am moved...moved because I am giving to something I truly love and believe in.

This Stewardship season, I would ask you think about what you love about UUCP. And to consider deeply your financial commitment to helping UUCP become all it dreams of being.

Yours in community and love,  
Susan

## It's Stewardship Season!

Members and friends of UUCP, mark your calendar! Our annual Stewardship Campaign kicks off on Sunday, March 24. Celebration Sunday, on April 14<sup>th</sup>, will be the culmination of the campaign with an all-congregation outdoor brunch at UUCP at 11:00 am. We ask all members, friends and supporters to make their financial commitment for the July 2013–June 2014 fiscal year before or at the Celebration Brunch on April 14<sup>th</sup>. I look forward to all of us joining together for a successful Campaign.

Thanks again for all your past and future support.

Smoot Carl-Mitchell  
2013 Stewardship Chair

## From the President

*There's no one right way to nurture democracy, just as there is no singular way to nurture faith. But standing together we move forward. And in the process we honor our Unitarian Universalist principles. We carry the flames of the generations before us and kindle the hearts of those who will lead us in the future.*

– Tracy Hurd, PhD, Resource Developer, UUA Lifespan Faith Development Staff Group

During our recent Midyear Congregational Meeting in January, I conducted a short poll of the attendees that for me was very informative and will stay with me for a while. I asked the people at the meeting, “How many Congregational Meetings have you been to before today?” The only folks new to the Congregational Meeting were Sebastian and Sage, two of our COA youth. Sam and Michelle were at their second Congregational Meeting, but the vast majority of the people there were longtime UUCP members who have been attending these meetings for years.

I think it is wonderful that we have such a committed group of longtime members. These are the people who set the example of devotion to our community. However, the reason that the meeting stays in my mind is because I find cause for concern that our Congregational Meetings are not yet fully representative of all of the diversity in our community.

For example, by my amateur reckoning, there are very few young members or young adult members who regularly attend Congregational Meetings. I suspect that families with younger children are underrepresented. Well over half of the attendees have been members longer than I have and the vast majority have been members before 2008.

Another way to say this is that since the UUCP called Rev. Susan as settled lead minister, our congregation has grown by more than 50%, diversity has increased, the number of worship services has doubled, the content and spirit of worship service has changed, the Board has adopted policy based governance, but none of this progress has been reflected in the way congregational decisions are made. What wisdom and insight are we missing in the Congregational Meetings?

Since the Board of Trustees is both the convener and the product of the Congregational Meetings, inclusiveness is extremely important to us. It is very important to us to feel as much as possible that we have been elected to serve the congregation by the entire congregation. It is very important that our sense of constituency reflects the diversity that we have and the diversity that we desire.

I am sure at this point of thinking about this, that the typical voices of rationalization are playing in your head as well as mine: “Congregational Meetings are too long,” “People need lunch,” “Child care concerns,” “I’ll be at church all day,” “Not enough publicity,” etc.

It is important to keep in mind that the format of the Congregational Meeting has been long determined by our ByLaws. It is required to be an “in person” meeting, with no absentee voting provision and no possibility of proxy vote. This section of the ByLaws is likely at least a decade or two old, and I honestly wonder if it is appropriate for 2013, in a time of vanishing discretionary time and expanding information-sharing capability.

This traditional type of decision making has advantages of fidelity and commitment, but is it possible that we improve the process to preserve these elements and also increase inclusiveness? Even the imperfect democratic process of voting in the State of Arizona does not require voters to be in a specific place at a specific time. Par-

## Nominating Committee...

enthetically, Arizona voter turnout was 58% in 2012 according to Center for the Study of the American Electorate. In a congregation of over 400 members, our voter turnout is 25% at best.

One of my heroes in Unitarian Universalism, James Luther Adams, said: “Revelation and truth are not closed, but constantly revealed.” Likewise, I think that our beloved ideal of democracy and our democratic process would be self-limited unless it is open to new truths and new revelation. Perhaps there are other models of democracy to consider such as those that take advantage of a small group infrastructure, or that incorporate new technology. I don’t presume to know the answer, but I do know that my revelation is that our democratic process is not inclusive enough.

When I was a covenant group leader, it was a custom to have an empty chair to remind us that we should always leave space for others to join us. In the spirit of the empty chair and the vision of filling that empty chair, I think we should invest some effort in re-assessing our congregational democracy. Since we just completed ByLaws revision this past year, we have some time to consider our improvements before the next round of ByLaws revision. However, there are things we can do today, such as invite other UUCP members to attend the next Congregational Meeting—the Annual Meeting on **June 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Hope to see you there <fingers crossed>.

Jimmy

Our next Board meetings are:

March 26<sup>th</sup>

April 30<sup>th</sup>

6:00 pm in the Johnson Room

All are welcome to join us!

## Opportunity for Enthusiastic and Dedicated Individuals

As you read this, The UUCP Nominating Committee will be finalizing the list of candidates for the UUCP Board of Trustees, Foundation, and Nominating Committee. The slate will be published in next month’s Horizons, including background information on each candidate. This is your last call to contact us to be included in this list! However, if you don’t contact us right away there is still a process for being considered. Per our by-laws, additional nominations may be made by petition of any ten members, provided the petition is accompanied by a signed statement expressing the nominee’s willingness to serve if elected. This petition must be filed with Paula Kulina, Chair of the Nominating Committee, by May 1<sup>st</sup> for inclusion in the list of nominees.

Please contact any Nominating Committee member for more information: Paula Kulina (chair), Jay Bastani, Juli Harvey, Terry Lockwood and Greg Holmberg.





## UUCP's "30 Days of Love" Projects

As part of our February 14<sup>th</sup> UUCP Community Night, we celebrated "30 Days of Love," a campaign sponsored by the UUA's *Standing on the Side of Love* "30 Days of Love" campaign. Members and friends of the congregation participated in three service projects. We contributed a large number of needed items (blankets, children's toys, water bottles, etc.) to Puente, one of our Arizona Immigration Ministry partners. Puente will distribute these things to families who need them, especially families of migrant detainees. Children and adults drew pictures and wrote letters to migrant detainees through the Restoration Project. The children also assembled baggies of food items and juice for Los Samitanos. The mission of the Samaritans is to save lives in the Southwestern desert by providing food, water, and medical assistance to people attempting to cross the desert on foot. Thank you to all who contributed and participated in our "30 Days of Love" outreach!



## Arizona Immigration Ministry

**“THE GREATEST GIFT I HAVE EVER RECEIVED HAS BEEN TO HAVE BEEN LABELED ‘UNDOCUMENTED.’”**

A few years ago Francisco’s family lived a life of privilege in Cananea, Sonora, Mexico. Francisco’s father held a management job in a copper mine, and Francisco attended private school. With a downturn in copper prices, the job went away, eventually resulting in the family going from Sonora to Tucson. They stayed when their visitors’ visa expired, so they became undocumented.

Francisco spoke to a group of Unitarian Universalists at the Borderlinks facility in Tucson. Rev. Linda and I were in the group, taking part in a UU College of Social Justice educational tour in the Tucson to Nogales, Sonora corridor. Five minutes earlier in our conversation, 19-year-old Francisco had wept as he had told us about how much he misses his older brother, his role model, who quietly left Tucson and returned to Sonora when he found a job opportunity there. Then Francisco composed himself and told us that it is a gift to be ‘undocumented,’ going on to say “It has made me who I am—more self-reliant and resolute to accomplish something every day.”

Our tour group met many migrants during our intense, five-day tour. Each encounter revealed something more about the people who cross the border. I was able to identify with Francisco more closely than with many of the other migrants, and I think that it was because Francisco had been a person of privilege throughout most of his childhood.

While I could identify with Francisco because we have both experienced privilege in our lives, Francisco has lost much of his privilege. I have experienced some loss in my life, but only once or twice has it been a loss of privilege. Francisco’s grace in the face of great loss brought me some new lessons about resilience and compassion.

Francisco seems to understand that, living without papers, he has learned how to put forth the best in his character. He has neither a fancy street address nor stylish clothing from which to build a facade. Recently he has been earning college credits as quickly as his meager resources and a private scholarship will allow, on a dream and a prayer that he will someday be able to apply his learning to his chosen profession. Francisco even realizes that the privilege he previously enjoyed gave him a head start that hasn’t been obscured. His early education gave him advantages over another undocumented student with whom we spoke. Yadira grew up poor in Nogales, and has never experienced privilege, on either side of the border. Francisco is compassionate toward Yadira and marvels at the obstacles she has overcome.

In last month’s Horizons I commented that “The call to witness (on immigration issues) 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?” Some of you have replied to me, and I’d like to hear from more of you. As for me, Francisco is a human rights partner who has taught me volumes.

Con abrazos fuertes,

Sandy Weir  
AZIM Organizer

## Notes from the Music Director

As I write this, I've been at UUCP for exactly one month. As someone new to the church, I assure you, it truly is a welcoming congregation! I already feel a part of the community, and I've enjoyed meeting and getting to know all of you who I've met so far. As someone who has not been particularly religious in the past, I've been surprised at how happy I've felt during services. Perhaps I've been a UU at heart all along.

For those of you wanting to be more involved in the music program, there are lots of opportunities! If you have songs that you'd like us to sing or music that you'd like to hear in a Sunday service, let me know. If you love to sing, our choir rehearses on Wednesday nights from 7:00-9:00 and is always looking for more singers. And if you play an instrument and want to play on a Sunday morning, or just want to find other church members to play with informally, let's make it happen. You can find me at most Thursday community nights and Sunday services, or you can email me at the address below.

We have a few fun musical events coming up:

- ♪ This Sunday, March 3, Rev. Susan will be out of town, and in her absence I'll be coordinating a service about music and worship, including congregational singing, performances, and perspectives on life from some of my own musical heroes.
- ♪ And on Saturday, April 6, I hope to have a strolling band playing hymns alongside our UUCP delegation in the Pride Parade. All instrumentalists who can walk and play are welcome!

Looking forward to seeing and hearing you all soon,

Benjie Messer

[benjiemesser@phoenixuu.org](mailto:benjiemesser@phoenixuu.org)

## From the Business Administrator

As I write this article my mind is preoccupied with realization that our congregation has earned a reputation. Apparently, others think how we do things are worth mimicking. Several months ago I received an email request from a Business Administrator in Washington State asking for the link for our 2012-2013 Stewardship Campaign webpage which had the very nifty giving guide calculator created by Smoot Carl-Mitchell, our former Treasurer. Upon providing the link we received a very enthusiastic thank you and praise for the work.

Not soon after that I received another email request from a Fundraising Committee Chair asking for a few moments of my time to share details of our fundraising efforts related to the auction. Recently we were asked how we manage communications and publications and just yesterday another UU Administrator here in Arizona asked how we got our Program Catalog together because their congregation wants to start one.

I have dozens of other examples of how I have been asked by other UUs across the country about how we do our work. It isn't the asking that is the true point of pride though, it is when I answer and they come back with a "Wow! That's so professional. I want *us* to do that!" Everything I work on involves a team of creative, intelligent, hardworking and passionate UUs, and all of us should share in the pride that we have a reputation—of being a congregation worth modeling.

In community,  
Heidi Parmenter



## Shining a Light on Hospitality

### WELCOMING MINISTRY VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

I want to acknowledge the many volunteers who make a special commitment to congregational hospitality. They are dedicated to creating a warm and friendly atmosphere on Sunday mornings so that we welcome all who come through our doors. They serve as Greeters: welcoming people to services, orienting visitors and newcomers, and helping people to sign up for newsletters, nametags, and new member classes. They serve as Ushers: continuing the friendly welcome to services, supplying people with Orders of Service and hymnals, and helping people find seating. Greeters and Ushers perform other functions, too, that are necessary to the safety and fiscal responsibility of our congregation, but I'd like to especially focus on the importance of their leadership as shining examples of hospitality, as living examples of our mission to welcome all.

Because Rev. Susan and I feel strongly about the importance of hospitality as a Unitarian Universalist spiritual practice, I want to especially thank our Welcoming Ministry volunteers by declaring:

*March is Welcoming Ministry Volunteer Appreciation Month!*

When you see our Greeters and Ushers this month, please give them a hug, a handshake, and/or some sincere words of appreciation for their service of hospitality.

Do you want to know who these Welcoming Ministry volunteers are? Please see the list of active volunteers below (apologies in advance if your name was inadvertently omitted):

Lead Ushers: Gene Cherry, Gary Ezzell, Ernie Garcia, Yvonne Harrison, Michael Hipps, Margaret Leahy, Jon Poblador, Randy Smiley, Jim Sorgatz, Matt Thesing

Lead Usher Subs: Bob Aitken, Barbara Glenn, John Idlewine, Gary Lawrence, Peggy Paden, Janet Persen, Libby Walker

Lead Greeters: Toni Colotte, Mary Dawes, Joan Gale, Loretta Isaac, Jenny Jones Moats, Laida Restrepo, Julie Smart, Lydia Yanak

Other Faithful Welcoming Ministry Volunteers: Diana Ashely, Barbara Cawthorne, George and Shirley Karas, Heather McLellan, Jon Penrose

Volunteers who help when they can or step in at the last minute: Ellie Anderla and Ellie Murphy (and their Small Group Ministry), Lee Bergmann, Uli Boecker-Grieme, Sally Boyd, Ruth Braunstein (and her Small Group Ministry with Lydia Yanak), Barb DeWitt, Igor Glenn, Paula Kulina, Glen and Terry Lockwood, John Moats, Caroli and Mike Peterson, Jerry Whalin

((HUGS))) and sincere appreciation to all of you! Please stop by the Welcome Table sometime during the month of March to collect a little thank you gift from me for the spotlight you place on our ministry of hospitality!

If your name isn't on one of the above lists, we need you! Please add your name to our Welcoming Ministry volunteer list by calling me at 602-840-8400, Ext. 204, or by emailing me at [Linda-Lawrence@phoenixuu.org](mailto:Linda-Lawrence@phoenixuu.org).

You may also sign up at one of the following doodlelinks, and when I see your name on the link, I'll be sure to pair you with an experienced volunteer for some "on-the-job" training:

Welcoming Ministry Volunteer Sign-up

Greeters: <http://doodle.com/m66sfd2cwbvvhdt>

Ushers: <http://doodle.com/99hf34tpgq2dgcr8>

## From the Staff...

### COFFEE HOUR NEWS

Sunday mornings are the primary times we open our doors to the world and say, “Come on in! Join us!” These are the times we really want to shine a light on our hospitality and be most welcoming to visitors and newcomers. It is up to each and every one of us to help build a community that welcomes all.

So that we might be more welcoming, we are continuing to experiment with some aspects of our after-service coffee hours. You’ve probably noticed that we’ve reduced the number of tables we set out in the Johnson Room and on the patio. Please reserve the spaces at the tables for people who truly need to sit.

You may wonder why we made this change. Coffee hours can be notoriously intimidating to newcomers (or even longtime members)—especially people who are more introverted or shy. While we are all happy to see old friends on Sunday mornings, it is important that we go forth and mingle! Please help us be a truly welcoming congregation by talking to at least one person you do not know every time you go to coffee hour. Greet that person warmly. Ask some open-ended questions and get to know him or her by listening to their reasons for coming to our congregation. If you are involved in an activity group or committee, invite that person to join you if their interests match yours or introduce them to someone with whom they might have something in common. Offer to meet a newcomer at the next Sunday service so they don’t have to sit alone.

If you really get to chatting with someone new (or even a longtime friend), you can sit on one of the cement benches, get a couple extra chairs out of the Johnson Room cupboard, or even sit back down in the sanctuary for a while. The important thing is to be aware that the responsibility of hospitality is ours. So please be on the lookout for visitors and newcomers—not to pounce on them!—but to warmly invite them into conversation, to hospitably include them into the inevitable circles we human beings make as we gather together. Thank you!

Rev. Linda Lawrence  
UUCP Assistant Minister  
[lindalawrence@phoenixuu.org](mailto:lindalawrence@phoenixuu.org)  
602-840-8400, Ext. 204



**Come see our school in operation!**

### Open Houses

**March 22 and April 8**  
**9:30 a.m.—11:30 p.m.**  
**4027 E. Lincoln Drive**

### Now enrolling

**Ages 2, 3, 4 and 5 for classes**  
**starting in September.**



Please RSVP or for more information, contact Anne Byrne at  
[annebyrne@phoenixuu.org](mailto:annebyrne@phoenixuu.org) 602-840-8400 ex 233  
[www.uueec.org](http://www.uueec.org)

# UU KIDS KAMP 2013

**June 3 –27, 2013**

Jam-packed fun for children, ages 3 -12! **New Counselor-In-Training (CIT) program for rising 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade young people.** Organized in age-based “tribes,” kids dance, act, drum, create, play, perform and have a rollicking good time.

Register by  
4/15 for \$50  
discount!



**Counselor-In-Training (CIT)** is a service-learning based program designed to prepare young teens to serve as Kids Kamp counselors in future years.

**Time and Days:** Kids Kamp: Monday – Friday, 8:30 a. m. – 1:30 p. m.

Aftercare: Monday – Friday, 1:30 p. m. – 5:30 p. m.

Activity	Fee
Kids Kamp	\$575
Kids Kamp plus full-time aftercare	\$750
Daily Aftercare	\$14/day
Counselor-In-Training (Rising 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> graders)	\$300

**UUCP Members get a \$25 discount!**

**Registration:** \$150 deposit and registration form required to reserve a space. **For more information, contact Jeffrey at 480-406-3616 or Anne at 602-840-8400 ext. 233.**



**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix**  
4027 E. Lincoln Dr. Paradise Valley, AZ 85253 602-840-8400 ext. 233  
[www.phoenixuu.org](http://www.phoenixuu.org) [kidskamp@phoenixuu.org](mailto:kidskamp@phoenixuu.org)



## We Went to Camp!

I just returned from my first excursion up the mountain to Camp de Benneville Pines, the Pacific Southwest Region's UU camp in the San Bernardino Mountains in California. Prompted by UUCP member (and camp addict) Melinda Iyer, I decided to check it out to see what all the buzz was about.

The camp I attended was a joint family/elementary focus, which means there were some elementary kids in attendance on their own as well as families that attended the camp together. Not having an elementary-aged kid of my own, I recruited Katie Q. to be my proxy daughter and come along for the weekend.

About midday on Friday, Cara Denby pulled up in her minivan to pick me up. There were already six girls in the van—Cara's three, Melinda's two daughters, plus Katie. Being the sister of four brothers and mother to three sons, this "girls" trip was a special treat for me. About six hours later, we arrived on the Camp de Benneville Pines grounds.

Much to everyone's relief, there was plenty of snow when we arrived. The camp has a large lodge and an assortment of other buildings, including housing cabins and gathering spots. There is a pool for warmer days, along with an archery range, playground, trails and the nearby Lake Jenks. Katie and I stayed in a room with two bunk beds, along with other families in the other rooms.

We all ate together in the lodge and the kids and parents signed up for various workshops throughout the three days of camp. There was family yoga, arts and crafts, and theatrical play, but the clear winners for participation were snow play and sledding. Most of the other families were from California and pretty much all of us came from locales where snow is not part of our winter experience. The kids played and played and played in the snow. Katie got the camper award for most changes of clothes as our room took on a drying rack persona with socks, pants and shirts hanging all over in various stages of drying.

Many of the families had been to camp before and the exclamations of the camp's wonders were profuse and commonplace. I figured out early on that the camp experience gets cumulatively better with each time you attend. Katie and I both made friends that will be fun to see again, and now that we know the ropes, we can hit the ground running next time—we will each bring 10 pairs of socks, instead of the six recommended!

It was a fun weekend for me, but the true value was in interacting and watching Katie. She is a delightful 5<sup>th</sup> grader who graced many at camp with her good cheer. She made a special friend in Eden, a girl her own age from southern California. But she also made a couple of seemingly unlikely other friends. One was Jake, a dad and software engineer, with whom Katie engaged in a rowdy snowball fight. We had to watch our backs all weekend to make sure we didn't encounter an unexpected snowball attack. The sweetest friendship was with our next door neighbor, Otis, a four-year-old at camp with his parents and older sister. His sister stayed with the other kids in the girls' cabin, and Otis decided that Katie was his girl. We would overhear conversations on the trail or in the cabin like, "What do you want to do today, Otis?" and his response, "Whatever Katie is doing." Katie saved seats for the family at meals and showed loving care to little Otis, who was naturally besotted with her charms.

I expected Katie to make friends with girls her own age, but her other friends surprised and pleased me. I think this is probably the essence of the Camp de Benneville Pines experience—loving connections in unexpected ways. I am looking forward



*Katie & Otis*

## From the Staff...

to my next trip, and I am sure Katie is too, where we will join the legions of camp champions, touting Camp de Benneville as an experienced not to be missed!

There are camps likely to appeal to all, including families, youth and adults. I'm hoping to go to the Folk Music camp in fall. For more information on available camps, visit Camp de Benneville's web page here: <http://www.uucamp.org>.

Anne Byrne  
Director of Children's Ministries



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

Lenore Caroline Bendheim  
Jeremy E Butler  
Christine Albrecht Campbell  
Helen Dycus Lane  
Marti Teresa McDermott  
Orval Floyd McVey

Nicole Fiala Murphy  
Catherine Bird Olsen  
Lloyd Dewitt Oxley  
Jacquard H Rothschild  
Phyllis Mills Rothschild

## Evangelism—With a Small “e”

Much has been discussed recently—in circles large and small—about the word *evangelism*. After countless meetings, contemplation, consensus building and deliberation, our Board of Trustees unveiled a strategic plan, complete with three ends statements that reflect what our congregation might look like as we live out our strategic plan. Rev. Susan and board president Jimmy Leung have shared some of their thoughts about specific phrases and ideas from the new plan in their *Horizons* columns, and the excitement for our future continues to build. One phrase in particular from our ends statements says that (paraphrasing): “UUCP is filled with committed, evangelical Unitarian Universalists.” That one word—*evangelical*—has launched and landed in many conversations lately, including in our Youth Ministry program, where the word is simply not as important as the message it conveys.

Our children and youth are evangelical in the purest sense of the word—before it was claimed and capitalized. When our kids bring their UU vales of fairness, justice, democracy, compassion and love into their school rooms, cafeterias, sports teams, and extracurricular activities, they are evangelizing in the truest sense of the word. When they stop someone from hurting someone else, when they recognize choices, when they affirm others who don’t look or think like they do, they are evangelizing. When they invite their friends to come to church just because it feels good, they are evangelizing.

Our youth are so proud of UUCP’s presence in the Phoenix Pride parade, and UU Day at the Legislature, and for our work toward migrant justice work—not just because it is fun, but because it is important to who we are as a community. When we go out to lunch together as a group, many youth take that opportunity to tell strangers about who we are, why we are together, and where we worship together on Sundays. They unabashedly invite others to visit our website, to learn about our faith, and to join us anytime. They share songs and games and stories learned in Sunday school, Together Time, Camp DeBenneville Pines and Kids Kamp, and the spirit of our faith shines through.

Many of our young people are unaware of the baggage this word might carry for some, so perhaps they are unknowingly reclaiming it with the same zealous excitement as others before us have claimed it and capitalized it. They may not name it, but they do it. They are sharing and inviting and informing with passion and excitement. And I bet a lot of us likewise evangelize, with a small “e”.

With love and encouragement to share beyond our walls,  
Jaynn Truran, Youth Ministry Coordinator



*Asha Arora and Mitch Burke lead the service on February 3<sup>rd</sup>*





*Caleb Crabbs shares his bagpipe prowess*



*Ryan Featherston and Marcus Leatham entertain with special music*



*Youth group members enjoy a celebratory lunch*

**Coming of Age** candidates, teachers, mentors and families thank everyone who came out to support our February Cupid's Market fundraiser. The group raised in excess of \$800, which will help to fund a special graduation trip at the end of May! Thank you for your love and support—it was a wonderful success!



*Coming of Age candidates sell Valentine goodies*

## Adult Faith Development Opportunities

There are a number of upcoming opportunities to share journeys, grow in spirit, and learn about ourselves and others. Please take a look at the March and April classes listed below and sign up to attend any that interest you. You can register and pay for most classes at the Book Table on Sunday mornings. You can also sign up by leaving a message with your name, contact information, and the name of the class you wish to take at 602-840-8400, Ext. 200 or by emailing [officevolunteer@phoenixuu.org](mailto:officevolunteer@phoenixuu.org). You can pay at the first class session if you haven't paid for the class in advance.

With a UU Studies Pass (\$35 payable at the Book Table or purchase at class), you can register for as many classes as you wish and pay no additional fees. Most classes are \$10 each, but please note that there are some exceptions listed in the descriptions of those classes.

### COMPASSIONATE COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP

Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>

9:00 am – 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](mailto:azwambach@earthlink.net)) or Sandy Thomson ([sjthomson@cox.net](mailto:sjthomson@cox.net)).

### OASIS IN THE DESERT

Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>

6:45-8:00 PM

Uli Boecker-Grieme will teach some fundamentals of reflexology as we practice on ourselves and one another in a safe, nurturing environment. We aim to relax and heal mind, body, and spirit. Please sign up by calling the office, Ext. 200. Donations accepted at the class.

### GOOD GRIEF

Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>

10:00-11:30 AM, Annex C

Join Rev. Linda Lawrence and others who wish to support one another by listening to and accepting our individual experiences of loss and grief. Bring a photo or memento of your loved one if you wish. You may also bring a reading, picture, or poem that helps you express your feelings. No pre-registration or fee required.

## Ministry and Committee Reports...

### EXPLORING CULTURE AND PREJUDICE

Sundays, March 17<sup>th</sup> – April 7<sup>th</sup>

9:00-10:30 AM, Annex B

This course, led by Gene Cherry, explores the acceptance of differences and the necessity of communicating with one another to overcome prejudices. If interested in the background material for this course, you can read the following texts. A few copies will be available for purchase at the UUCP Book Table: *American Nations* by Colin Woodard and *The Righteous Mind* by Jonathan Haidt.

### SENIOR-I-T: OPEN TO ALL THIS MONTH!

Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>

2:00-4:00 PM, Johnson Room

Following refreshments and time for socializing, Don and Judy Peters will present a film to which they have a personal connection: "The Minister's War." This film was shown at the Herberger during the 2012 UUA General Assembly in Phoenix. It tells about the role that a Unitarian minister and his wife played in the early days of Hitler's rise to power before the United States took an active role in World War II. So come for an interesting discussion following the film, a dose of UU pride, and re-affirmation that one person can make a difference.

### THE (NOT NECESSARILY SO) NEW UU

Thursdays, March 28<sup>th</sup> – April 18<sup>th</sup>

7:00-8:30 pm

This workshop is designed to engage newcomers and members who are seeking to deepen their Unitarian Universalist identity. Participants will examine their own personal stories in light of our Unitarian/Universalist tradition and heritage. The resource book for this examination will be *A Chosen Faith* by John Buehrens and Forrest Church. There will be time for conversation, questions and program activities dealing with theology, worship, UU roots, faith development, social justice, governance and meaning of membership.

### PATHWAY TO MEMBERSHIP (PTM)

Thursdays, April 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>

6:00-8:00 PM, Johnson Room

If you're thinking about UUCP membership, please join us for the Pathway to Membership series to ask your questions, meet others new to UUCP, and learn more about our congregation. Come to the Johnson Room at 6:00 PM for UUCP Community Night. Bring a sack supper or join in the potluck dinner. Then we'll adjourn to another room at 6:45 PM for the PTM program. Childcare is available both evenings. If you are unable to make the 6:00 dinner, it is fine to join us for the class at 6:45.

For a more complete description of the PTM program, please check out our UUCP Program Catalog. You will find hard copies in the brochure rack in our foyer or you can read it online at [www.phoenixuu.org](http://www.phoenixuu.org). Questions? Ask Rev. Linda at 602-840-8400, Ext. 204 or [LindaLawrence@phoenixuu.org](mailto:LindaLawrence@phoenixuu.org).

To indicate your interest in the Pathway to Membership program, please sign up on the clipboard at the Welcome Table on a Sunday morning or send your name and contact information to Rev. Linda. If the April dates don't work for you, watch for next year's Program Catalog that will come out in August. It will list the dates and times of prospective member programs for the 2013-2014 congregational year.

## Ministry and Committee Reports...

### APPLYING UU PRINCIPLES IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS: A CLASS FOR UUCP SINGLES

Thursdays, April 11<sup>th</sup> – April 25<sup>th</sup>

7:00-9:00 PM, Annex C

Cost : \$15.00

This workshop, facilitated by Yvonne Harrison and Jon Pablador, is for singles who want to explore the ways in which our UUCP principles can be applied in relationships of all types. Topics may include building and maintaining supportive friendships, managing relationships with family members, and enriching our UU social connections. Each session will include exploration of a UU principle and time for discussion in pairs or groups. Depending on the interests of participants, the class may evolve into a social or covenant group. The course is intended for those who are not currently participating in a long-term romantic relationship.

### THE TRANSCENDENTALISTS: IN WORDS AND IN LIFE

Sundays, April 14<sup>th</sup> – May 12<sup>th</sup>

9:00-10:45 AM, Annex B

Henry David Thoreau wrote, “What can be expressed in words can be expressed in life.” Delve into the writing and lives of the Transcendentalists: Emerson, Thoreau, Fuller, and more. Learn how the major minds of this philosophical movement begun in 1830s America influenced UU Principles and changed the world in word and deed. The required course text, *The American Transcendentalists: Essential Writings* (Lawrence Buell, ed.), will soon be available at the Book Table.

## Social Justice Events & Opportunities

### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SERVICE COMMITTEE – UUSC

#### Summer Program for UU Youth

This June 30–July 21, the UU College of Social Justice will bring together a select group of high-school youth in Boston for three weeks of transformative social justice training and real-world internships. In a program that is grounded in Unitarian Universalist values, participants will form a community across differences and leave with a deeper understanding of themselves and social justice. This is an opportunity for youth dedicated to social change. For more information go to [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org), National Youth Justice Training.

#### Fair Share Coffee & Chocolate

Fair Trade coffee and chocolate make great gifts for others—or for yourself! A new supply has arrived so stop by the Social Action table to make your purchases. Price point remains \$8.50 for coffee and \$3.00 for chocolate bars. Your purchase helps support farmers and their families in many countries who are paid a fair wage for their efforts.

UUSC is working to advance rights for workers in the food industry like a safe environment, fair wages and the right to organize.

Heather McClellan, UUSC Representative

### SHARE THE PLATE

On March 17<sup>th</sup> we Share the Plate with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC).

UUSC is a nonsectarian organization that advances human rights and social justice in the United States and around the world.

With roots of activism from World War II, UUSC's mission and vision are guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the seven Unitarian Universalist principles that affirm the worth, dignity, and human rights of every person.

Membership envelopes will be available for initiating or renewing individual memberships, and/or you may contribute to a general donation.

More information is available at our Social Action table and [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org).

To nominate an organization for Share the Plate, please see the guidelines and application at [www.phoenixxu.org](http://www.phoenixxu.org) under Social Action.

### SOCIAL ACTION LUNCHEON, SUNDAY MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup> 12:30 PM

#### *A New Chicken Paves the Way for Improving Social Justice in Uganda*

The Social Action Committee (SAC) is pleased to present Drs. Sylvia and Jagdev Sharma at our March Luncheon. The Sharmas are currently involved in a project to introduce a new breed of chicken from India into Ugandan society. The project has been funded in part by a grant from The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation with the goal of increasing protein in the Ugandan diet through more egg production and consumption.

While Dr. Jagdev Sharma, a world-renowned research veterinarian working in avian medicine, is working on the technical aspect of actually getting the birds from India to Uganda, Dr. Sylvia Sharma will be working on gender issues by holding community workshops for women in family nutrition, poultry husbandry, income generation and income management.

To find out more about this international social justice project spearheaded by these two friends of UUUCP, join us for lunch in the Johnson Room after the second service on Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup>. Lunch will be catered by New Day Gourmet and ***everyone is invited***. A voluntary contribution is appreciated for the food.

Looking forward to April we have booked a speaker from Planned Parenthood of AZ to discuss women's reproductive rights. If you are interested in social action issues and would like to check out the SAC please contact [socialaction@phoenixuu.org](mailto:socialaction@phoenixuu.org) or come to a meeting on the second Sunday of each month following the second service in Annex H.

### PHOENIX PRIDE PARADE AND FESTIVAL, APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup> & 7<sup>TH</sup>

Mark your calendars today for the 2013 Phoenix Pride Parade and Festival. Again, this year UUUCP will be joining the other four UU Congregations of the Valley to display our support and solidarity with the LGBT community.

## Ministry and Committee Reports...

The parade kicks off the festivities on Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM. We will be gathering near Thomas and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street between 9:00-9:30 AM. From there we will be marching up 3<sup>rd</sup> Street towards Steele Indian School Park.

As an added treat this year our new Music Director, Bennjie Messer, has volunteered to lead members of his band, Bad Cactus Brass Band, and members of the four congregations in a horn and percussion *musical extravaganza*. Among other songs, they will be playing old congregational favorites like “We Are a Gentle Angry People,” “We Are Building a New Way,” and “Come and Go with Me to That Land.” So come join us and sing along!

We will also have a booth on the festival grounds which will be active on both Saturday and Sunday. Volunteers from all four congregations will be assisting at the booth. To sign up to march in the parade and/or to help out at the festival booth stop by the SAC Table at the back of the Sanctuary or contact Trent Tripp at [trenttripp10@gmail.com](mailto:trenttripp10@gmail.com).

## Volunteer with Eritrean Refugees

The Eritrean Refugee Initiative, an outreach ministry of UUCP, provides used computers to refugees and conducts English classes three days a week. In addition to these services, refugees from this small country in the Horn of Africa can benefit from having American friends. The International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Phoenix has offered to train UUCP members to volunteer with individual Eritrean refugees. For more information contact Libby Walker at [eri@phoenixuucp.org](mailto:eri@phoenixuucp.org) or email Emily Taylor, IRC Volunteer Coordinator [emily.taylor@rescue.org](mailto:emily.taylor@rescue.org).

## Traveling 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 to 8:00 pm in the UUCP sanctuary.

March 8: *Follow Your Dream, No Matter Where* with Barb DeWitt

“When I was 48 years old, I decided that I’d been afraid of falling for long enough, so I decided to sky-dive. I did it and learned that I can be afraid and still do whatever it is that I want. When I was 50, I got the opportunity to go to New Zealand for three years, to backpack around Australia for three months, to go to Germany for another three years, to visit France, Spain, Egypt, and many other countries. Come with me as I recall scuba diving with sharks, sailing an old three-masted ship, and all the rest of the things you can do with just a tiny smidgen of money and a bit of courage.”

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





In the 1960s our minister, Rev. Ray Manker, along with other UUs, bought a primitive lot of land up in the Sierra Ancha Wilderness, near Young, AZ. The idea was to create a wilderness retreat that all nature-loving UUs could use. They named it SAWUURA (Sierra Ancha Wilderness UU Religious Association) and made it a nonprofit supported through memberships. There is a Board of Trustees that govern the use and membership and maintain the property. Recently, I was invited to join the Board and accepted.

When my son turned two, I decided it was time to take him camping, and as a single mom I thought the annual Memorial Day Weekend family camp at SAWUURA would be a perfect introduction to the joy of sleeping out of doors. I won't lie, I ended up feeling completely exhausted, overwhelmed and cranky *but* I still fell in love with SAWUURA. First off, many of the families that were there had been going for years and they were so kind and helpful. I felt like I was camping with a big happy family. Second, I might have been tired and cranky from no sleep, but Beau was happy as a little piglet in mud. The woods, the brook, the outdoor showers (solar heated and gravity fed, awesome!), the campfire, music, freedom to run, run, run—honestly, what young child would not be in bliss? Our second time back Beau was four and we got more sleep and everything else was just as we remembered it. My hope is that this becomes an annual tradition for us.

I invite you to join us this Memorial Day Weekend and maybe start your own camping tradition. Kids not necessary to attend!

### **2013 Memorial Day Weekend**

**Friday, May 24 through Monday May 27, 2013**

SAWUURA is a primitive wilderness camp, two miles down a gently sloping canyon. An all-wheel drive vehicle or pickup truck is a must. We will gladly provide rides down from the top of the road for anyone who asks. Cell phones work well at the top of the hill and in a few places at camp. Pets are not invited to group events. Fees include all meals and are only \$45 for each adult and \$25 for each child. If you become a member of SAWUURA (for only \$60/year individual or family or \$30 for a senior or youth) the fee is reduced to \$35. Registration deadline is Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Go to [www.sawuura.org](http://www.sawuura.org) for more information and to register.

In community,  
Heidi Parmenter  
SAWUURA Board Member  
602-799-9042  
[heidiparmenter@phoenixuu.org](mailto:heidiparmenter@phoenixuu.org)

To subscribe or receive Horizons via email, please submit your contact info at the visitors' desk or email [administrator@phoenixuu.org](mailto:administrator@phoenixuu.org).

## Time, Boredom and Meditation

Time is a measure of change. Clock time measures the change in the light by the earth rotation.

In my village in India about 70 years ago, when I was a child, there were no clocks. We were aware of time by the change in lengths of shadows during the day. We could tell time by positions of stars during the night. Sometimes, we could not tell time clearly when skies were cloudy. We were then roughly aware of the time by the changes in our mind-body because the changes in the mind-body were naturally somewhat aligned with the changes in nature.

When we close our eyes to do meditation, we remain somewhat aware of the clock time by the activity of our mind-body. However, we can learn to change that activity willfully and change our perception of the time. If we could change the mind activity to very slow movement, we would hardly feel the clock time. When we wake up from such a meditation, we will be happily surprised that the time had passed so rapidly. We will feel as if we woke up from a very good sleep, even though we remained alert all that time. Such meditation will be very healing. We will wake up happy and smiling.

If however, while trying to meditate, we are not able to slow our mental activity, we will soon get bored. Our mind will want the exterior visual stimulation. It will require will power and understanding to persist in the practice of the mediation overcoming boredom.

Fortunately, the mediation effort like that will strengthen the will power. That in turn will allow us to do better meditation. When our will power is stronger, we will feel less bored even while watching TV or listening to a speech. We will adjust our mental activity to be in tune with the tempo of the selected stimulation. Our mind will become healthier. It will be able to discriminate better and make better decisions.

Our style of daily living often consists of easy credit, easy changes in relationships and easy choices in all areas of life. It also constantly exposes us to fears of all kinds, so much so that some of us become addicted to information and media that cause us to be afraid. Such style does not allow us to exercise our will power to discriminate and act with courage and self-control to a large enough extent. Many of our mind-body problems may have roots in this style of living. Meditation practice can start bringing us back to healthier and happier life.

Jay Alagia

*Note: Jay has been teaching 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 Archives: UUCP History

*A Biography of Isabelle Johnson (of Johnson Room fame!) compiled by Charlotte Carl-Mitchell and Jimmy Leung*

### ISABELLE HASTINGS JOHNSON



*Isabelle Hastings in 1892 and in her wedding dress in 1903. The Johnson family in 1916 or 1917.*

Isabelle Marie Hastings Johnson was born on January 15, 1880 in West Boylston, Massachusetts to Fannie Wilson and William R. Hastings. She graduated from the English High School. In February 1903 she married Benjamin Oliver (B.O.) Johnson and had two daughters, Frances Johnson (Locke Bishop) born on November 1, 1903 in Forsyth, Montana and Helen E. Johnson (Rountree) born on November 8, 1908, in Glendive, Montana.



B.O Johnson went to Worcester Polytechnical Institute (class of 1900), played football, and was a civil engineer. In 1917, B. O. Johnson, along with a group of railroad men in St. Paul, Minnesota, went to Russia as members of the newly formed Russian Railway Service Corps (RRSC), a unit of experienced railroad men formed to improve operations along the Trans-Siberian Railway. It was organized as a military unit and Johnson had the rank of Colonel. According to "An American Railroad Man East of the Urals," 1918-1922, by Frederick C. Giffin, "The RRSC came to Siberia at the request of Alexander Kerensky's Provisional Government, which was subsequently ousted from power by Lenin and his followers. Though ostensibly politically neutral, the corps in fact worked closely with anti-Bolshevik forces and played an important role in the Allied military expedition in Siberia of 1918-20."

*Continued...*

## Congregational History...

Shortly after the Bolshevik revolution, B.O. continued to work for the trans-Siberian Railway. He, Isabelle and their daughters lived in China around 1918 or 1919. B.O Johnson was decorated seven times by European and Asian nations for his work. He eventually rose to the position of senior vice president of Northern Pacific Railroad. The Johnsons lived in Massachusetts, Montana, and eventually in Minnesota by the time of B.O.'s death in 1932 at the age of 54.



*Isabelle Johnson in St. Paul, Minnesota in June 1942 and in August 1942 in her civilian uniform for the Red Cross Women's Motor Pool*

Isabelle "was a huge women's rights person... and a remarkable person," according to her grandson, George Rountree III. Isabelle was involved in the Minnesota effort to support the women's suffrage amendment. She was also an administrative leader of the Red Cross Motor Corps during WWII. As a part of the WWII women's homefront, Isabelle made sure every man knew she was just as smart and capable as they were; that women could do anything a man could. Isabelle, her daughter Frances Locke, and granddaughter, Joanne Locke moved to Phoenix in 1943.



*A group photo in 1947 of the new Unitarian congregation that met at Kenilworth School and a close-up of Isabelle.*

In 1946 Rev. Lon Ray Call was sent to Phoenix by the Unitarian Association to organize a church. Isabelle Johnson, who had known Lon Ray Call in the Midwest, was contacted by Rev. Call and asked if she would act as an appointed secretary for the initial meetings and newspaper publicity. She had a strong feeling that the success of a fledgling organization depended very largely on the efforts of the secretary and she wished to assume this responsibility. Her association with new movements went back to the early days of the women's suffrage movement, so she was well aware of the types of problems that might arise. That was the beginning of the First Unitarian Church of Phoenix. Isabelle was board president in 1950.



Isabelle was known for her intelligence and community leadership. In addition to being a founding member of the UUCP, she was also a charter member of the Arizona Country Club, the first and only woman charter member of an Arizona country club at the time. She was a woman ahead of her time. Her daughters clearly inherited her leadership tendencies. Frances was also a founding member of the UUCP and Helen was a Phi Beta Kappa Radcliffe College Graduate, Arizona bridge champion, president of the Junior League and active in the American Red Cross.

She was also careful with her appearance, especially her hair. She had long, wavy hair as a girl. In her later adult life, she kept her hair short but long enough to have perfect curls and waves. Her hair was beautiful, naturally curly and she was very meticulous regarding how professionals cut it, according to her son-in-law.

On Isabelle's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, January 15, 1970, the Isabelle Johnson room was dedicated at the church in her honor. She died in her home at 1616 W. Glendale, on October 30, 1976. She was survived by her daughters, Frances J. Bishop and Helen Rountree; three grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Upon her death, her son-in-law, Bill Bishop (also a founding member of the UUCP), wrote this poem about her:

“Now death has solved the Gordian knot  
of life and its complexities,  
Giving peace at last to her tortured body,  
and cleaving clean the tangled web of illness and despair.  
Our hearts shall long remember her, erect of mind and standing straight,  
Prudent, perceptive, quizzical, intolerant only of intolerance,  
Stalwart in her reasoned faith, a citizen of the whole universe,  
Savoring life and loving humankind to her last able moment.  
Thus we shall remember her—  
This great and gentle woman whose life has blessed us all.  
The indignities of dying now fade into the past  
and peace at last is hers;  
She lives immortal through our lives.”

— William Blauvelt Bishop



## Welcome, New Members!

We had two people sign our Membership Book in December and ten more people sign following the February Pathway to Membership class. We are happy to welcome the following new members: Heather Benesh, Kristina Benner, Joe Blankenship, Belinda Clark, John Davis, Tracy Davis, Nathan Greene, Brenda Kessler, John Kessler, Nancy Swedlund, Bob Walter, and Danny Wilson.

You will see their photos on the bulletin board next to Office 2. There are also some photos and bios in the March and April issues of *Horizons*. Please greet these new members when you see them and take some time to get to know them. They are great people!



Heather Benesh is new to Unitarian Universalism after being part of a different faith for most of her life. For many years she felt like a square peg in a round hole. After an extensive internet search, Heather came to UUCP, immediately connected with the congregation, and knew she had finally found her home. Heather has lived in Arizona for most of her life, graduating from ASU with a degree in Chemistry. She worked in lab for 10 years before spending six years at home with her children, Alex (6) and Aurora (4), who will both be in school this fall. Heather recently returned to work, and in her free time she enjoys being with her husband and children, reading, and practicing yoga. She also regularly volunteers at the Phoenix Center for the Arts where her husband, Joseph, is Director. She is excited to be part of this wonderful organization and is already volunteering as a co-teacher for the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Sunday School class.

Kristina Benner was raised in Las Vegas, NV, skipped around the Southwest for a bit, and settled in Phoenix 11 years ago. She recently returned to ASU to complete her degree in psychology. Frankly, she has no idea what she wants to be when she grows up. For now, she is focusing on renovating houses, photography, traveling, reading and hiking. She has been sneaking into Sunday services for years and decided that it was time to introduce herself. She looks forward to being an active member, and she feels so happy and grateful to meet such wonderful people at UUCP.



Joe Blankenship has spent much of his adult life on a spiritual journey that included visits to many churches and denominations. The UUCP is the first church that he has felt comfortable enough to become a member. Joe is retired, having dedicated the last part of his career to developing renewable energy facilities. He is married to Patricia Bauer. Joe is the father of two wonderful adult children who live in Texas.



## New Members...

Belinda Clark has been one of our Sextons for the past three years so she is a friendly and familiar presence at coffee hours, Community Nights, and other congregational events. Belinda became a grandmother in November and wants to raise her first grandchild, Seri, in this community which she has come to love and appreciate.



Nathan Greene is an award-winning visionary, producer, animator, puppeteer and imaginologist. He is currently living in Phoenix, Arizona with his two children Elliot and Jaden, and is striving to broaden his international brand of inspired creativity to new projects. He currently works as an entrepreneur developing creative technology solutions for global medical companies. His hobbies include international travel, compassionate community service, mountain biking and rock climbing. We are fortunate to have Nathan as UUCP's Sound Coordinator.

John & Brenda Kessler are AZ "seasonals" from the north Chicago area. They have been UUs for 35 years and were members of the UU Congregation of Evanston, IL for 25 years where they raised their three children as UUs. For the last 10 years they were active members of the UU Society of Winnetka, IL. They enjoy their membership and participation in UUCP. You might recognize John as the guy who sells grocery store cards that you can use to make contributions to the congregation every time you shop!



Nancy Swedlund attended Methodist churches for many years before discovering Unitarian Universalism 18 years ago. She has attended a number of UU congregations since then, appreciating their open-mindedness. Nancy has lived in the Phoenix area since 2010 and transferred her membership to UUCP after hearing Rev. Susan speak at the 2012 General Assembly. Nancy has a doctorate in psychology from Minnesota School of Professional Psychology and is employed as a therapist at West Valley Family Development Center in Avondale. She lives in Buckeye with her daughter Megan, Megan's partner Chuck, her 13-year-old grandson, David, and their five dogs, two chickens and two baby desert tortoises. Her hobbies include hiking (with dog), horseback riding, and a book discussion group.

### Unicare

#### FRIENDSHIP PARTNERS

Friendship Partners is a Unicare subcommittee. It pairs active members of the congregation with those congregants who are housebound or have health and/or mobility restrictions. A volunteer is asked to visit her/his friend on a monthly basis. Additionally, some partners share outings, have lunch together and undertake other household chores, such as shopping. A few volunteers make regular phone calls only and do not visit; others provide escort help and transportation to programs or services at the church.

Friendship Partners would like to hear from you if you are interested in participating in this program. We would also like to be notified if you or someone you know would like to be paired with a visitor. Please contact Ruth Braunstein at [candrmmb@cox.net](mailto:candrmmb@cox.net).

Over this past year, interest and participation in this caring service has grown. The following Friendship Pairs have regularly met and visited together. They are: Frank Ashton who is visited by George and Shirley Karas; Billye Butler by Julie Smart, Judy Lambert and Ellie Murphy; Paul Daniels by Susan Goldsmith; Gene Grigsby by Barbara Cawthorne, Carolyn Allenby and Susan Goldsmith; Joan Fitzrandolph who is telephoned by Ann Jackel; Lissa Heider by Jenny Jones Moats, Frank and Rosie Hermann, Susan Morris and Sandy Thomson; Margaret Herrick by Julie Smart; Steve Lackey by Smoot Carl-Mitchell; Ray Manker escorted to the church by Barbara DeWitt; Lucienne and Bob Rusconi by Smoot and Charlotte Carl-Mitchell and Ellie and Bob Murphy; Ruth Thistlethwaite by Joanne Michael; Arnold Thaw by Janet Persen, Rev. Linda Lawrence, and escorted by Joanne Barbanell; Helen Votichenko by Sally Boyd and Barbara Cawthorne; and Greta Woods by Barbara DeWitt.

Thank you all for your affection, service and care.

#### UNICARE COMMUNITY NEWS:

- We unexpectedly lost congregation leader Terry Simmons last month. Our thoughts go out to his family, as well as to UUCP members who knew him and called him friend. Memorial service for Terry is set for March 2<sup>nd</sup> at UUCP at 10:00 am.
- Condolences go to the family and friends of Penny Butler who died recently. Though not active at UUCP for many years, Penny was a longtime member of the congregation.
- We are happy to hear that Dena Sidmore's father's cancer has not progressed and he has received clearance to attend her wedding.
- Richard and Connie Jahrmarkt were in a car accident. Thankfully it was only a delay, no one was hurt, and they were able to make it Cabaret rehearsal.

Congratulations to Lee Bergman and Christine Desjarlais! They climbed the tallest peak of the McDowell Mountains where they were married.

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](mailto:unicare@phoenixuu.org).

Walk in beauty,  
Ceyshe' Napa, Unicare Coordinator

## Valley UU Invites You to Prescott Family Retreat

April 12-14, Valley Unitarian Universalist Church in Chandler will be hosting a fun weekend in the woods at Pine Summit Camp in Prescott ([www.pinesummitcamp.com](http://www.pinesummitcamp.com)). Besides being located in a beautiful forest, they have a mini-golf course, basketball and volleyball courts and an enclosed gym with a rock wall, basketball courts and low-tech game room. VUU's new minister, Reverend Andy Burnette, will lead Sunday Worship Service. You'll spend two nights in dormitory-style rooms, enjoy five meals, and spend time with new and long-time UU friends. Registration runs from March 10<sup>th</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>. The cost is \$88/adult, \$85/child age 9-17, \$57/child age 2-8. For more information contact Nancy Stillings at [nstillings1@cox.net](mailto:nstillings1@cox.net) or 480-540-3473.

## National Youth Justice Training

The UU College of Social Justice is advancing our mission to engage the next generation of Unitarian Universalists. This summer, we're offering our National Youth Justice Training (NYJT) program, building on the success of our summer 2012 youth training. NYJT is a transformative three-week experience for high-school-aged youth. It will be held in Boston, MA, June 30–July 21. The program will include interactive social justice education and real-world internships, grounded in Unitarian Universalist values and practices.

Apply today through our online application: <http://uucsj.org/trip-application>. We are accepting applications now through April 15.

Youth will learn about systems of race, class, gender, and heterosexism; build the skills to do effective social justice work; and serve in an internship with one of many justice organizations here in Boston. Participants will connect their learning and action to Unitarian Universalist values, explore our robust history of UU social justice work, and be sustained by spiritual practices and vibrant worship.

NYJT is for young people who are newly inspired to take action against the injustices of our world as well as for seasoned social justice youth leaders. Join us!

Sam Jones  
UU College of Social Justice



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

December 21, 2012 ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS  
Board of Trustees

UU Congregation of Phoenix  
4027 E Lincoln Dr  
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253-3946

Dear UU Congregation of Phoenix Leaders,

I am writing to offer a warm and heartfelt message of appreciation and gratitude for your congregation's financial support of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Your full contribution to the Annual Program Fund (APF) is essential to sustaining our most vital programs and services.

Your APF contribution allows us to stand together on the side of love and justice. Your contribution allows us to speak together against the forces of oppression, against barriers to freedom, in support of peaceful relations. Your contribution helps educate our children, empower our youth, and provide ongoing programming for all ages and life stages. Your contribution provides nurturing and healing ministry far beyond the boundaries of your congregation.

Fully funding APF and district contributions through your annual budget takes leadership, hard work, and generosity on the part of many. Your contributions support the good works of Unitarian Universalism in your community and extend the reach of our ministry in the wider world. Thank you for being a 2012 Honor Congregation.

Very sincerely,

Laurel Amabile

Director, Annual Program Fund  
Stewardship and Development  
[www.uua.org/giving/apf](http://www.uua.org/giving/apf)

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## GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGISTRATION AND HOUSING RESERVATIONS OPEN MARCH 1

### FROM PROMISE TO COMMITMENT

Building on the experience of the 2012 Justice General Assembly, the GA Planning Committee and the UUA Board of Trustees and Administration seek to create a General Assembly in 2013 that moves our Association "From Promise to Commitment."

Promises call us into relationship. The experience of making, breaking and remaking promises is the reality of our lived faith. We will gather in Louisville, Kentucky to examine and renew our covenant to our faith, one another, our congregations and the larger world.

### AVAILABLE MARCH 1

- [GA Registration](#) opens (at 9 a.m. EST)
- [GA Housing Reservation System](#) opens (at 9 a.m. EST)
- [List of GA programs](#) (subject to change)
- [GA Tentative Agenda](#)

### 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. The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries has [scholarships specifically for youth and young adults](#) planning to attend GA.
- **The Davidoff Fund for Lay Leadership** serves to subsidize the attendance at GA of lay leaders from congregations who have not been represented by lay leaders at GA in the last three years. [Apply](#) by April 30.

UUA General Assembly  
[www.uua.org/ga](http://www.uua.org/ga)  
[generalassembly@uua.org](mailto:generalassembly@uua.org)

## Wine Country Holiday

“You generously share your beautiful community, your welcoming homes, your expertise and, especially, your warmth. We will remember this trip always.” –Ann McCracken, Cincinnati, OH

The UUs of Napa, California proudly announce the eighth season of our Wine Country Excursions. Again, we offer several options for an inside look at one of America’s most beautiful areas, internationally known for fine wines, gourmet dining and spectacular vistas.

There is much to see and do in the Napa and Sonoma valleys: wine tasting at renowned and boutique wineries; visits to art galleries and museums; exploring the natural beauty of our hills and valleys on miles of hiking and bike trails or by car on our highways and back country roads. Napa is an hour from San Francisco by car or ferry.

*We offer two choices:* Both start with comfortable lodging in members’ homes with full breakfast (up to three nights). You can choose a two-day “Wine Country Excursion” (a guided, personalized tour conducted by one of our members—some with wine industry experience) or lodging and self-guided touring. If desired, we provide guidance, maps, etc. UU ministers will be personally guided by our minister, Rev. Bonnie Dlott.

The program runs from April through October. Our fees are well below market rate for comparable services and *all proceeds go to our small fellowship*. For complete details contact: Iris Barrie at 707-363-7552 or [barrie001@comcast.net](mailto:barrie001@comcast.net).

We look forward to sharing our lovely “home” with you!

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of North Bay

## Travel to India with Other UUs

Take a mindful journey with Unitarian Universalists and their friends to India, November 5-18. Visit the renowned Golden Temple in the Punjab, and experience the incredible one-of-a kind, once-a-year Pushkar Camel Fair in Rajasthan. Art and frescos, ornate palaces, spectacular hill top forts—the varied architecture and art on our journey will be memorable. Visiting Hindu, Sikh, and Jain temples, we’ll learn their history and beliefs. We’ll stay in small Heritage Hotels and two nights in a tented camp. At the end of our journey it will be possible for you to add the Taj Mahal or other places in India.

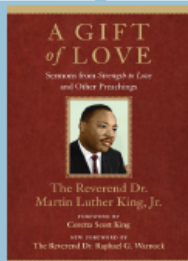
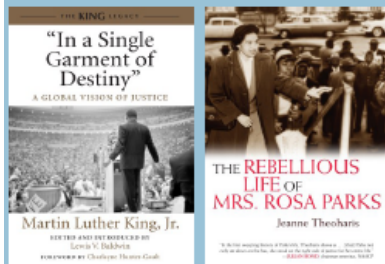
Taking a mindful journey is about being alive in the moment, being wide awake, being present to what is on our path. No better place to do that than India! This will be the Best Exotic Marigold adventure ever! Email [beverlz@me.com](mailto:beverlz@me.com) or see [www.nuuc.ca](http://www.nuuc.ca), Mindful Journeys, for more information. UU Rev. Wayne Walder will accompany us.

Beverly Carr, Neighbourhood UU Congregation, Toronto, Canada



## Beacon Press

### The Inspiring Lives of Rosa Parks and MLK



Deadline extended for authors to apply to create a new worship for all ages renaissance module until February 15th. Visit <http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/279167.shtml> for details.



UNITARIAN  
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QUESTIONS? CONTACT [INFO@UUA.ORG](mailto:INFO@UUA.ORG)

## CONGREGATIONAL BULLETIN

### Taking Action Against Anti-Muslim Bigotry Webinar on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>

Presented by the Shoulder-to-Shoulder (S2S) Campaign, the webinar will be hosted by Chris Warner and will answer "What is Islamophobia and how can we counter it?"

As a coalition member of S2S, the UUA encourages you to bust myths and change minds one conversation at a time. Sign up at <http://bit.ly/WBjzuc>



### Sign Up for the 2013 UU-UNO Intergenerational Spring Seminar



From April 4-6, you are invited to join our interfaith dialogue on

global LGBTQ issues, in New York City. We encourage youth, young adults, adults, and seniors to participate in discussing crucial issues affecting the LGBTQ community around the world.

For registration information visit <http://www.uua.org/justicecalendar/200149.shtml>

### 2013 Minns Lecture Series

Join us March 8-9 in Boston, MA in person or online, for these three important lectures on how our free faith tradition speaks to young people and how modern technology can enlarge our reach.



[www.minnslectures.org/2013Series.php](http://www.minnslectures.org/2013Series.php)



### *An action to live it loud and proud*

#### Deepen Your Reproductive Justice Engagement

Reproductive justice is LGBTQ justice, envisioning a world where all people can access full reproductive and sexual health and experience agency over their bodies, sexuality, and ability to raise (or not raise) children.



Reproductive justice is also Unitarian Universalism's 2012-2016 study/action issue, an opportunity for us to learn, reflect, and act together.

Lots of resources for congregations, including the Unitarian Universalist Association's new curriculum, are free online!

[uua.org/reproductive/action/200096.shtml](http://uua.org/reproductive/action/200096.shtml)

### *A tool to increase your welcome*

#### New Free Online Organizing Academy

The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force has launched a brand new Online Organizing Academy, a free and interactive site that offers access to free tools, skill building opportunities, powerful stories, and connection to other people who care about LGBTQ justice.



Find out more and sign up:

<http://bit.ly/NGLTFacademy>

### *News to share*

#### Immigration Reform is a Top LGBTQ Issue

The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force announced at its annual Creating Change Conference that immigration reform is a key priority for the LGBTQ movement. Watch a compelling video clip from the conference to learn why firsthand (skip to 0:23:30): [www.youtube.com/watch?v=MqFJ2UOkk-E](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MqFJ2UOkk-E)

**LGBT for immigration reform**

IMMIGRATION EQUALITY

In more news, President Obama's immigration plan will include same-sex couples, in response to a coalition of LGBTQ and immigration advocacy groups teaming up for the first time to take action for bi-national couples: [bit.ly/washblade-binational-couples](http://bit.ly/washblade-binational-couples)

Want to learn more about LGBTQ immigration justice? Check out ImmigrationEquality: <http://immigrationequality.org>

### *A story to inspire your ministry*

#### Church Celebrates Welcoming Congregation Anniversary with Concert to Benefit LGBTQ Youth

The First Parish Church of Groton, MA, celebrated their tenth anniversary of being recognized as a Welcoming Congregation by hosting the Boston Gay Men's Chorus for a public concert, filling an 800-seat concert hall at a local middle school. The concert raised \$7,416 for five high school Gay-Straight Alliances and anti-bullying projects.



Full story here: [uua.org/interconnections/interconnections/281036.shtml](http://uua.org/interconnections/interconnections/281036.shtml)

## Celebrations of Life

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

#### MARCH 3: EXPERIENCING MUSIC

Service Leader: Benjie Messer

Let us experience the beauty of the world and the fellowship of being together through singing, listening, and using music as a sonic metaphor for the struggles and joys in our lives.

#### MARCH 10: COMING OF AGE THROUGH LIFE'S TRANSITIONS

Rev. Linda Lawrence & Longtime Members of the Congregation

We celebrate the “coming of age” of our young people each spring. In reality, we continuously “come of age” as we move through the stages of life. How has our congregation supported you through changes, challenges, losses, and triumphs? How has being a member of UUCP influenced you? Some longtime members will tell you their answers to these questions and invite you to reflect upon your own responses.

#### MARCH 17: TO BE CALLED

Service Leader: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

What does it mean to be called? Ministers speak of being called, but so do teachers, doctors, nurses, and artists. What does it mean to feel a calling? Where does it come from and what does it mean to follow it?

#### MARCH 24: WHY DO YOU LOVE UUCP?

Service Leader: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

A touchstone of Unitarian Universalist practice is gratitude. The discipline to move from focusing on what's missing, wrong or yet unfinished, to an awareness of all that we have, gifts of life, health, friendship and community. Gratitude is a practice that opens the heart to love and generosity. So, in that spirit, what do you love about this community we fondly call UUCP?

#### MARCH 31: MULTIGENERATIONAL EASTER SERVICE: LOVE MAKES US REAL

Service Leader: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

Through the beloved children's story *The Velveteen Rabbit*, we'll explore how love makes life matter, how it makes it real.

*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  
Music Director: Benjie Messer  
Choir Director: Connie Jahrmarkt  
Children's Ministry Director: Anne Byrne  
Youth Programs Coordinator: Jaynn Truran  
Arizona Immigration Ministry Organizer: Sandra Weir  
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Custodian: Manuel Gomez  
Nursery Supervisor: Tiffany Mendez  
Horizons Editor: Elyse Arring  
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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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