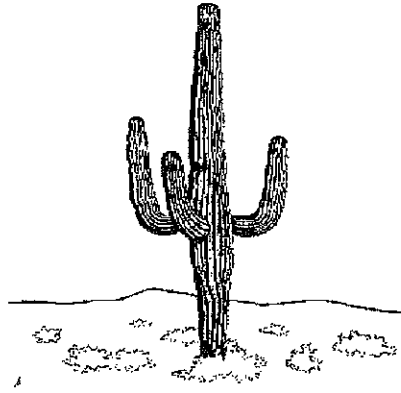


THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH OF PHOENIX, ARIZONA  
ANNUAL REPORT  
JUNE 1997

SOCIAL ACTION MINUTES



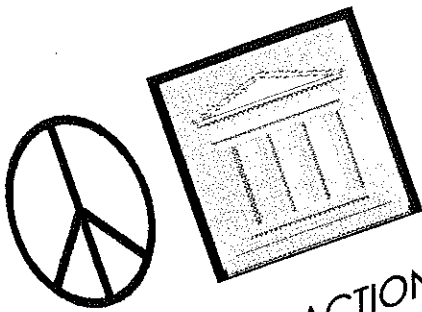
ACTIVITY GROUPS



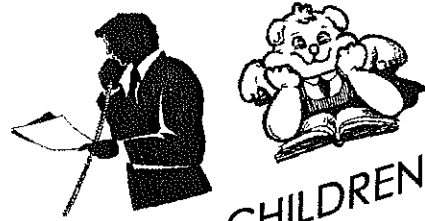
ALL CHURCH RETREAT



MUSIC



SOCIAL ACTION



ADULT AND CHILDREN'S RG&L

HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

NEW DAY CENTER



ART ASSOCIATION

## ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

In many ways this was not a typical year in our congregational life. It was a year of sweeping changes and heightened sensitivity to diversity. It was a year of spiritual exploration and joyful celebration. It was also a year of introspection and serious problem solving.

One of the happiest events of the year was the church's Golden Anniversary celebration, which conveniently fell on a Sunday, March 2, fifty years to the day that we were incorporated in 1947. Amid gold decorations and a lavish display of potluck salads and delicious main dishes we all partied and reminisced and shared stories with silver-ribbed members of 25 years or more. Birthday gifts to the church totaled close to \$3,000, all of it earmarked for use by the Dream Force members who are working to bring greater community recognition of our UU denomination.

Another joyous event was the first annual all-church retreat in April, a weekend of fun and relaxation in the cool pines of Prescott, summed up by Jack Grenard as a chance for adults to "put away their electronic toys long enough to play with their children . . . an older, slower way of doing things." A "Beyond Valentine's Day" dance party was hosted by Interweave, that unbelievably energetic group responsible for bringing us all together with events that are both enlightening and fun. Then there were Plaza sunDays, Olley the Trolley rides, a Hanukkah party, Social Action lunches, Circle dinners, Outdoor Group hikes, Grubby Saturdays — community builders all.

And there here were some proud moments. In the spirit of inclusiveness we've been considering a change in our name as members become increasingly aware that, for many people, there is an off-putting connotation to the word "church." By the end of the Annual Membership Meeting, we may be reborn as a UU congregation, fellowship, or community.

There were many changes in our professional staff during the year, too. In September we bid a tearful farewell to our beloved director of RG&L, Ann Scott, and her family, and then welcomed Patty Finch as the new director, only to lose her a few months later to a full-time job elsewhere. Luckily for us, Gloria Keenan and Dawne Spinale were available to take over as directors of RG&L for children and adults, respectively, and are proving to be a delight to work with. Two more sad losses were Ginny Gross's decision to leave her position as Administrative Director for a job more in line with her career aspirations, and Maxine Romero's move to a full-time position with another church. Happily, we now have Jan Parsons-Schwartz and Barbara Hughes filling the slots of Office Manager and Program Coordinator and struggling heroically to create order out of the chaos so many changes have wrought. Even the music director's position saw a change with Candace Mabee's resignation and the recent arrival of an exciting new director, Karen Kennedy.

Last fall we held our second Build the Dream all-day session, with about 60 of us attending. Some of our dream projects have now been completed, some have been put on hold pending adequate funding. Most highly visible have been Dream Force #5's efforts to make our grounds "remarkably attractive." (And thanks to Jan's quick-thinking acceptance of some donated chip seal, we even have a somewhat improved surface for our north parking lot.) One of our favorite

dreams — expanding the RG&L Director's position to full-time with a professional salary — had to be abandoned because of an inadequate budget, but our two part-time directors are a very satisfying alternative. Dream Force #2 will be working on a plan to promote the UU denomination in the community, through media advertising among other things, and will fund their projects with your generous 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary gifts.

In April the Board of Trustees and the Ministry Committee, working cooperatively, created an all-church evaluation, something that was recommended by our Pacific Southwest District director, Conny LaFerre, a couple of years ago. Almost 200 of you returned the survey forms, the results of which were computerized, graphed and printed for sharing with the congregation. Some areas of the church seem to be thriving; others did not bring the positive responses the Board had hoped for. In a deeply caring effort to make a healthy congregation even healthier, the Board has called on an outside consultant to help us assess our situation and develop a course of future action.

- It looks like a busy summer!

Ellie Murphy

# Minister's Report

Rev. Fritz Hudson

Our ministry this past year has seemed most shaped by our responses to change and our aspirations for growth.

Change has been most obvious in the faces of our paid staff. All of our director staff positions have changed incumbents during the past year. Since the minister is mandated by our by-laws to "participate in the hiring of all staff," I have invested significant personal energy in facilitating these transitions. Our trustees, as members of our various staff oversight committees, have been my full partners in this work. As our new staff team now grows in self-confidence and cooperative competence, I look forward to enjoying the fruits of this hard labor.

Growth aspiration began this year with our Board of Trustees. Last summer, we read Transforming Liberal Congregations for the New Millennium, by Rev. Roy Phillips. It started us thinking about how a church might see fostering personal spiritual growth as the measure of all its activities. It also spawned an experimental personal growth program called Leaderspirit. This spring, Trustees Susan Goldsmith, Glen Lockwood and Robbie Kern joined me in attending the UUA's Mid-Sized Church conference in Houston, Texas. There we were stimulated to see church growth as involving numerical, maturational, organic, and incarnational dimensions. I look forward to broadening and deepening these efforts and understandings with our new Board and the congregation as a whole.

Last year's Vision 2001 Convocation's proposed "Landmark Changes" guided significant dimensions of my efforts this year as well:

- Our Religious Services Committee (Janet Johnson, chair) and I surveyed the congregation to better understand what "less standard, predictable programming and more innovative, creative types of services" might look like, and we made some tentative efforts to reach that landmark
- Our Outreach Volunteers (Bill Parker, Jet Muten, Nancy Hochwald, and Gail Walker) and Unicare committee (Julie Smart, chair) moved us several steps toward a "lay pastoral ministry program that includes full support of volunteers."
- Our staff helped me produce three new pamphlets "Rites and Rituals", "Sunday Children's Programs" and "Personal Ministry" to "make materials readily available" which "advertise our principles" and "publish information about church groups, activities, programs."
- Our Social Action Committee (Margo Newhouse, chair) - particularly through its UU Day at the Legislature Committee (Jane Paul, chair), New Day Center Committee (Mary Ellen Mussman & Christine Williams, co-chairs), and its partnership with Interweave (Jan Kaplan & Kathy Kruse, co-ordinators) - provided me opportunities to help the church "become more visible Valley-wide as an active participant in struggles for social change" (to decriminalize sodomy) and "create opportunities for people with limited time to be involved in social change in one-day projects."
- Our Adult Religious Growth Committee (Jan Tatman & Charlie Lynch, co-chairs) and I worked together to create much greater "diversity of educational experiences" by supporting my leadership of such new programs as "Spiritual Assessment", "UU Stories", "Personal and Family Spirituality", "Congregational and Public Spirituality" and "Growing Together" as well as by broadening their own program offerings.

Our UU Association's calls for assistance have also drawn my energy this year, primarily in supervising the Flagstaff Fellowship's Extension Ministry Internship with Gail Tapscott, but also in providing a variety of support for our Phoenix General Assembly this June. From time to time, our Board's independent efforts have called for my support as well (most notably Build the Dream '97 and our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Founders Day). President Ellie Murphy carried the leadership ball with skill, energy and aplomb. (Thank you, Ellie!!)

Behind the scenes, our Ministry Committee (Jean Lawton, Judy Lambert, Tom Broderick, Jeremy Mussman, Ellie Murphy, Susan Goldsmith) provided active and very helpful guidance in refocusing my ministry toward "more warmth, less perfection" (their mantra) and assisting the Board of Trustees to create and conduct the "All Church Evaluation Survey". I look forward to taking guidance for the coming year from your survey responses.

As Rev. Charles Stephen Jr. writes "... we live our lives amid endings and beginnings, and somehow we find stability there. ... (but) it is the continuations that attract us and give us strength."

## INTERNSHIP OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

We are fortunate to be included in a special Unitarian Universalist Association Extension Intern Ministry Program. From February 1997 -- February 1998. Gail Tapscott is doing her one year Intern Ministry with the Flagstaff Fellowship in Flagstaff, Arizona. She spends 3 weeks per month there and comes to our church for a one-week experience with a large established church with a full time minister.

At no cost to us, under Fritz's supervised guidance of her practice of professional skills, she has brought her talents and background to observe and help us with Sunday Morning Services, Forums and administrating Staff as well as contact with individual people. Before the year is over, you will see her in other areas of "Church activities"

Gail has an Oversight Committee in Flagstaff to guide, consult and evaluate her performance. We have the equivalent committee here: Shirley Karas, Charlie Lynch and Muriel Osder. (We are all available to answer any questions you might have.) Our Committee has met with the Flagstaff Committee twice and we will be submitting Mid Term Evaluations and Observations to the UUA after attending one of Gail's Services at Flagstaff in August.

Thanks to Jay Finkelstein who has helped us and to Leslie, John, Cameron & David Warner for providing her home hospitality at this time. Many thanks also go to the following people who offered home hospitality when the request was initially made: Diana Saylor & Tom Brookshire, Marge & Larry Newhouse, Erin Rogers, Thor & Shirley Anderson and Ginny Brew

Muriel Osder, Chair

## OFFICE AND HORIZONS VOLUNTEERS

This year has brought many changes and challenges to our office staff and volunteers. The departure early in 1997 of Ginny Gross and Maxine Romero to new jobs led to the hiring of Barbara Hugnes, Program Coordinator and Jan Parsons-Schwartz, Office Manager.

Our office volunteers demonstrated real teamwork and cooperation during these changes. They have also supported each other by exchanging days or working extra days to accommodate illnesses, emergencies and vacations. Three new volunteers joined our ranks: Julie Smart, a Fred Rozum and Cynthia McCrory.

Current office volunteers are:

Tuesday, 9-12:	Jet Muten	12-3: Bernie Hall
Wednesday, 9-12:	Jane Pauk	12-3: Bill Parker
Thursday, 9-12:	Gail Walker	12-3: Tish Gauntt
Friday, 9-12:	Julie Smart	12-3: Nancy Hochwald

Our "Horizons Collators" meet three to four hours once a month. These volunteers are: Shirley Anderson, Bernie Hall, Nancy Hochwald, Bobbie Jurkovic, Jet Muten, Bill Parker, Fred Rozum, Bob Rusconi, Julie Smart, Marshal Smart, and Gail Walker. The work is punctuated with lively conversation and is followed by a delicious potluck.

Two volunteer luncheons, one at Christmas and one to be held in June, are part of the yearly events.

Our thanks go out to all of these volunteers. They are truly an invaluable asset to our church community.

JET MUTEN

## FINANCIAL COUNCIL

There were three different Treasurers this year: Tina Calos, Fred Rozum and Jim Lynch. The Pledge Drive (Fred Rozum) resulted in a 1% increase in pledges.

Mary Ellen Mussman and Diana Saylor organized and directed the Flea Market which raised \$3,200.

Fred Rozum has agreed to head the Service Auction in Spring 1998.

Sharon Hise headed the Bed and Breakfast General Assembly Fund Raiser. Final results are not in but the project looks like a winner. Sharon will be our next Treasurer

Irv Bezman and his committee continued to raise money for the Church by selling Store Coupons. Some of Irv's helpers include Bill Roberts, Betty Scales and Fred Rozum. The Committee and the Congregation have earned over \$10,000 through the sale of store coupons since the inception of the project.

Betty Scales has agreed to perform the audit of the Church Books.

Jan Kaplan has agreed to direct next year's Pledge Drive.

Sharon Hise and Jim Lynch

## The People Council

It is the responsibility of the People Council to work with and coordinate the efforts of Committees which: (a) devise and carry out programs to attract new members and friends to the church; (b) involve them in the church; (c) assist and support church members and friends in times of personal need and (d) encourage members and friends to remain fully participating constituents. The People Council is made up of two Board Trustees and the chairpersons of various committees. Members of the People Council meet periodically to receive reports on current and past activities, to assess problem areas and to determine future direction.

Individual committee reports can be found in their respective sections in the annual report.

The committees are:

Unicare - Under the able leadership of Julie Smart, a cadre of volunteers have identified individual needs of church members and friends, and, in most cases, met those needs. They have been responsible as well for assisting in some memorial services. The church thanks all Unicare members for their hard work.

Membership - Jeannie Crewson has given leadership to the Membership committee during most of the church year. She and faithful members of the committee have consistently made efforts to recruit greeters/ushers by placing the sign up board in a more prominent location and using Horizons to call attention to the need. Recruitment is sometimes a difficult task. The committee also put special emphasis on identifying visitors and making them feel welcome. The committee is fortunate to have solid members who have worked hard and the church thanks them.

Nominating - Steve Magee and his able committee have functioned very smoothly, developing both slate of Trustee nominations and a slate for the nominating committee. In addition, the committee has filled vacancies on the board as they occurred during the year. The church thanks these committee members for the conscientious way they have gone about their tasks.

Respectfully submitted  
Glen Lockwood and Bill Parker  
People Trustees.



## **Nominating Committee Annual Report**

The Nominating Committee is a 6 member committee whose members are elected by the congregation. Each year this Committee nominates Church members to fill 6 positions on the Board of Trustees, 2 positions on the Foundation, 3 positions on the Nominating Committee and one position on the Ministry Committee. This year, the Committee also had to fill two existing vacancies on the Board. Through its work, the Committee nominated Jim Lynch and Sharon Hise to fill the Board vacancies and Jeremy Mussman to serve on the Ministry Committee. Bob Kammerle and Jack Holliday were nominated for the Foundation positions. All these nominations were approved and these members are now serving in these positions. The Nominating Committee also brought together the lists of nominees for the Board of Trustees and the Nominating Committee positions. These candidates will be submitted for election by the congregation at the June annual meeting.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, I'd like to thank these individuals for agreeing to participate in this aspect of our Church's mission. I would also like to thank my friends on the Nominating Committee for their time, humor and commitment.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Magee

Nominating Committee Chairperson

Nominating Committee Members: Susan Hunt, Sally Boyd, Nancy Hochwald,  
Leslie Warner and Richard Jahrmarkt.

## Ministry Committee

The Ministry Committee helps facilitate the relationship between the minister and the church. This past year the committee assisted in the writing of the All Church Survey and authored a new minister evaluation form for Board of Trustee use. Regular meetings are held quarterly, with additional meetings this year in October and March.

The committee welcomes and appreciates comments from church members and friends.

Tom Broderick

Susan Goldsmith - Board Vice President

Fritz Hudson

Judy Lambert - Co-chair

Jean Lawton - Co-chair

Ellie Murphy-Board President

Jeremy Mussman

## Annual Report of Unicare Committee

May 18, 1977

The Unicare Committee members serve as arms of the church that facilitate our members and friends in caring for one another in time of need.

The activities of the Unicare committee have been several this year, including luncheons, memorial services, poinsettia sale, purchase of items for the enhancement of services, design and distribution of information on Unicare and its work in the church, and the sending of cards throughout the year.

In September the committee hosted a luncheon for Plaza Sunday, serving salads and sandwiches. A lasagna luncheon in December was held for the members of the committee at the Smart's to acquaint Unicare members with our new members Shirley and George Karas and to plan for the coming year.

Members of the committee assisted with memorial services for Lloyd Oxley, Hanna Parker, and Louise Bercaw.

A poinsettia sale in December, headed up by Nancy Hochwald, resulted in the traditional decoration of the sanctuary and a small profit to be used for Unicare activities.

This spring a flyer was printed to familiarize the congregation with the activities of Unicare and how the congregation can be a part of this work. The flyer will be distributed during upcoming church services and the information gathered on this flyer used to involve greater numbers of the congregation in Unicare. (see enclosed)

Members of the Unicare committee who have served so kindly this year are: Jet Muten (co-chair), Sally Boyd, Ginny Gross, Nelma and Bill Hall, Bill and Hanna Parker, Nancy Hochwald, George and Shirley Karas, Gail Walker, and Marshal Smart. The office staff and volunteers helped in so many ways during the year to further our activities and services.

Respectfully submitted by Julie Smart, Unicare Chairperson

## Unicare The Caring Congregation

The Unicare Committee is the arm of the church that takes care of our members and friends in times of need. Today many of us live far from extended family so the Unicare Committee tries to do what aunts, uncles, grandparents, parents, and children used to do for each other. Even when extended family is available, we help with extra support as needed. The kinds of things we do are; visiting members who are ill, supporting people in times of crisis by bringing meals, running errands, and helping with transportation. We may also assist in memorial services by providing food or ushering.

There is an "official" Unicare committee, however, we need to organize the members of our "caring congregation" who will help on occasion with the various tasks listed below. There is room for everyone and we need you to join us in this wonderful gift of giving. We get to know one another in new ways and our relationships become stronger. This is our covenant with each other... to help one another- sound familiar?

Please take the time to fill out the form below, to offer help in a way that feels comfortable to you and return it to the church office. Trust that you will be called on only occasionally as the needs arise.

If you or someone you know could use the help of the Unicare Committee or Caring Congregation please call Julie Smart at 502-1201. We are a church community- here to help one another. The rewards are felt by all.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone - Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

I would be willing to help with the following:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Providing a ride for a member in my neighborhood
- \_\_\_\_\_ Taking a meal to someone
- \_\_\_\_\_ Assisting with memorial services by bringing food
- \_\_\_\_\_ Assisting with memorial services by ushering or serving food
- \_\_\_\_\_ Picking up flowers for Sunday service
- \_\_\_\_\_ Reading aloud to someone

I am available: weekdays \_\_\_\_\_ weeknights \_\_\_\_\_ weekends \_\_\_\_\_

## SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE      ANNUAL REPORT 1996-97

The Social Action Committee meets on a monthly basis to discuss, plan, and implement various projects which demonstrate our UU Principles, to make each other aware of the need for action, and to plan ways to raise funds for determined needs.

During the year our monthly "open" luncheons have featured a number of interesting speakers such as former congressman Sam Coppersmith, GA Chair Diane Olsen, AZ Senator Chris Cumiskey, director of Common Cause Jim Shipman, Charlotte Harrison, the executive director of The Arizona Family Planning Council, Dr. Wayne Mitchell whose topic was "American Indian Social Comment, and Maricopa County prosecuting attorney Dyanne Greer speaking about family violence. Members Jim Lynch, Heather McClellen, Tina Calos, George Pauk, Bea Page, Susan Goldsmith, and Fred Rozum arranged these programs.

Activities throughout the year have kept Social Action members busy. Ruth Amster has been active with VIP, bringing news back and getting others involved. The Interweave group, under the leadership of Jan Kaplan and Kathy Kruse, has had a busy schedule and, although it was an outgrowth of the Welcoming Congregation classes sponsored by Social Action, has been working independent of the committee. Jane Pauk was the state co-chair for a very successful UU Day at the Legislature in February as well as the forum that preceded it. Sue Kennedy continued as liaison with ICM, (Interfaith Cooperative Ministries). Jim Lynch and Michael Hart have continued to coordinate the Social Action Minute. Sandra Lynch and Mary Ellen Mussman have continued as liaisons with Booker T. Washington Head Start Center. Mark Grenard continues to keep everyone informed on environmental issues as does Cyndi Tooley on Latin American issues.

The New Day Task Force under the leadership of Mary Ellen Mussman and Christine Williams has been especially active. A fall carnival at The Center was a great success and involved a large number of church members. Christmas caroling and Easter egg dying activities were done by UU families with New Day families and this spring we committed to providing dinner for 100+ people at The New Center the first Sunday of each month. The dinners, being coordinated by Mary Ellen Mussman and Margo Newhouse, are also involving a wide number of UU members and friends.

Mary Ellen Mussman and Diana Saylor chaired an all-church flea market that raised \$3,100 for Booker T. Washington, New Day Center, and the church. Cyndi Tooley and Margo Newhouse chaired the Sistah Blue concert in March that raised almost \$1,800 for ICM, Booker T. Washington, and The New Day Center. Their hard working committee included Sandra Lynch, Mark Grenard, Gretchen Manker, Joan Bethel, Jane and George Pauk, Susan Hunt, Michael Hart, Larry Newhouse, Heather McClellen, Fred Rozum, and Al Finkelstein. Gloria Keenan arranged children's activities for the evening.

Margo Newhouse and Cyndi Tooley    Co-chairs

1996 ANNUAL REPORT SOCIAL ACTION MINUTE

Social Action Minutes began in January 1996 as a suggestion of one of the Dream Teams. As of May 18, 1997, 50 different individuals have given 68 different minutes on a variety of concerns.

Would you like to give a Social Action Minute?

Michael Hart and Jim Lynch Co-chairs

## DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The Committee recruited four members to be delegates to the 1997 General Assembly: Susan Goldsmith, Michael Hart, Robbie Kern and Glenn Lockwood. The Board of Trustees approved all four.

The Congregation was polled for its preferences on Action Items and Items of Business for the General Assembly. A report was submitted to the UUA.

Thirty-nine members volunteered to work at the General Assembly. Our church will have thirty volunteers working and we will be well represented at the GA by our Choir, The Women's Group Project at the Memorial Garden (Virginia Frogge), The Birmingham Project tours from the GA to our Statuary Garden (Ruth Amster), Interweave - Sodomy Protest Sponsor (Jan Kaplan and Kathy Kruse), Empty Bowls Project (Helen Helwig), CUUPS visit to Papago Park (Jane Grenard), and Ray Manker lighting the chalice at the Opening Exercises. Diane Olson of our Church will again be the General Chair of the General Assembly. A large contingent of our members will be attending the GA.

District meetings were attended by Fritz Hudson, Marg and Richard Stallworthy, Rod and Audrey Englen, Muriel Osder, and Sandra and Jim Lynch.

Member Rod Englen headed the District Chalice Lighters' program to raise money for District churches. Our Church led the District with over thirty pledgers at last count.

Fritz Hudson, Susan Goldsmith, Robbie Kern and Glenn Lockwood attended a UU conference in Houston on "Growth in Medium-Size Churches".

The Committee recommended and the Board approved casting all four eligible votes for Phyllis Daniels for reelection to the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Association representing the Pacific Southwest District.

The Board agreed to have the Church host (or co-host) the Annual 1998 Pacific Southwest District meeting.

Muriel Osder and Jim Lynch

## Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation

The mission of the U.U.W. F. is to enable U.U. women to join together for mutual support, personal growth and spiritual enrichment and through their combined strength and vision, to work toward a future where all women will be empowered to live their lives with a sense of wholeness and integrity in a world at peace that recognizes the worth and dignity of each individual.

Within the Phoenix Church, twenty two women have chosen to join and contribute to our continental federation through our local affiliation. This year along with Womanspirit and Womanspirituality groups, we presented a CHURCH SUNDAY CELEBRATION called "Bringing the Sacred to Church" and a Saturday GATHERING on 'Cakes for the Queen of Heaven' both featuring the Reverend Shirley Ranck. In February, Arlene Johnson, president of U U W F Carolyn Taylor and Dee Ann Dain, board members, met with us in Phoenix at which time we programmed for General Assembly including a special early morning service and breakfast when we can share the beauty of the Desert the Mountains, our Church and Sanctuary Garden with the women from all over the continent and world - our guests at this special time.

Carolyn has been planning travel for small groups. I chose to be with a group of ten in San Francisco and experience a ceremony of Samhain with Starhawk, attended a class at Starr King a presentation by Elizabeth Fisher author of Rise Up and Call Her Name and Gender Justice, two programs which we plan for next year in Phoenix. Arlene also arranged travel in her native country of Ireland including the church and university in Dublin, opportunities for genealogy studies, travel to the Moors and through the inspirational countryside of Yeats, and a visit to Bridget's Well, Further travels and experiences are planned for France, India, Spain, Egypt. Phone me at 488 1782 if you are interested.

There is much for us to learn, to share to do.  
There are many ways we can program to fulfill this mission statement.

There are many worthwhile U U W F presentations and inspirations at General Assembly for our participation and planning for next year.

*Virginia Fregge*

WOMANSPIRIT Small-group monthly meetings in homes for personal growth, support, sharing.



CIRCLE DINNER GROUPS

END OF SEASON REPORT

Circle Dinner groups, formerly the Epicureans, was formed in the Spring of 1995 by Shirley Anderson and Pauline Peverly.

The purpose of the groups is to provide small-group settings where participants can enjoy the fellowship and friendship available in a setting of UU members and friends.

This year's groups included 38 participants in 19 dinner parties, a holiday potluck and an end-of-season patio party.

SHIRLEY ANDERSON

ART ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR 1996-1997

Each month we had a different exhibition in the sanctuary.

- \* By tradition, in September, we have our own church collection.
- \* Wilfred Higgins exhibited his strong, colorful paintings in October.
- \* In November, we had a photograpns show by Max Weissback (photos taken in Cuba).
- \* Our traditional childrens' art show and church banners was in December.
- \* January is always our very special African-American exhibit sponsored by the Coalition of Black Artists (COBA), coordinated by Dr. Eugene Grigsby.
- \* The talented students of Dick Phillips showed their work in February.
- \* For the 50th Anniversary of our church in March, members who purchased art works through the years lent these works for a very special exhibition. Joanne Michael and Bob Murphy contributed the well-designed and researched labels.
- \* Kim van der Veen showed her experimental photographs in April.
- \* The "All Church Members" exhibition was the special feature in May.
- \* Last summer, for the first time, we had paintings displayed in the sanctuary. Jesse and Tish Gauntt showed their lovely and interesting paintings.

Members of our group are working artists and volunteers who give generously of their time.

These are Florence Foltz, our "registrar"; Kent Croissant, our labels typist; Bob and Ellie Murphy; Jack Holliday; Dr. Eugene Grigsby; Joanne Michael; Tish Gauntt; Wilfred Higgins; Kermit Butler; Sue Kennedy; Jackie Schulz; and Angelen.

Our chair "hanger and keeper of the nails" is Bob Rusconi. Lucienne Collaer Rusconi is chairperson, "Artist's Connection" and "Details Coordinator."

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY LUCIENNE COLLAER RUSCONI

**Interweave**  
Annual Report - 1996-7

Interweave is a membership organization affiliated with the UUA, dedicated to the spiritual, political, and social well-being of UUs who are confronting oppression as lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgender persons, and their heterosexual supporter. This was a very active first year of 1st UU's chapter, formed in follow-up to the 1996 Welcoming Congregation forum. Highlights of the year:

- 1) Initiated a Valley Interfaith Coalition of GLBT Rights. This has served as a forum for mobilizing responses from a number of faith communities to anti-GLBT legislation and activities and promoting other activities that support the inherent worth and dignity of GLBTs.
- 2) Participated in a number of special events as a UU Interweave presence: Pride Parade, Pride Festival, and AIDS March.
- 3) Organized a number of monthly social events and 2 all-church dances as part of our "interweaving" activities, and to welcome new people into our congregation.
- 4) Coordinated the planning for the GA Planning Committee's anti-sodomy protest event, Sunday, June 22 and have publicized this in the Valley. Coordinated the continental Interweave dinner on June 21.

Thanks to all participants and organizers, but especially Kathy Kruse, Anne Lipp, Ron Owen, Gail Paul, Jan and Melissa Parsons-Schwartz, Sandra & Jim Lynch, Kris Ward, Mary Anne Poggenburg, Gloria Keenan, Jenny Scrivner, Heather McClellan, Helen Walker, and Jan Kaplan.

  
Jan Kaplan

UMOM NEW DAY CENTER  
FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES

The UU Church has become increasingly involved with The New Day Center. Activities have provided opportunities for participation from children, youth and adults from our church. Recent and on-going projects at the shelter include the following:

1. Serving dinner the first Sunday of each month for approximately 130 people.
2. Holiday celebrations with shelter children and families.
3. Financial support for rooms at the shelter.
4. Individual donations of various kinds.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Ellen Mussman

## THE MEMORIAL GARDEN COMMITTEE

Members of the Memorial Garden Committee are Ruth Amster, co-chair with Jack Cummings, Bob Leesley, and Michael Hart.

The Committee oversees the interment of ashes in the Garden and is responsible for the maintenance of the grounds. This past year we have installed three pools for wildlife. This past low water-use plants, including cacti and others attractive to wildlife, repaired the lights and the irrigation system, trimmed, pruned and weeded. The fountain has been repaired and an aerator is being added to the reflecting pool to keep the water clear. For the wildlife, we have started a butterfly and hummingbird garden, a brush pile and a rock pile to house our lizards, geckos and other reptiles and a grassland to provide seeds for hungry critters. Eventually, application will be made for certification as a wild life area.

This year two benches have been added in memory of Allen W. Saylor and Hanna Parker.

We couldn't have done it without our Grubby Saturday Regulars: Audrey Mawson and Gene Rowley, Robert Revette, Mike, Briana and Kilea Noonan, Helen Walker, Ray and Gretchen Manker, Al Finkelstein, Bill Roberts, Chris Amster, Richard Jahrmarkt, Fred Rozum, Mark Grenard, Patty Finch, Helen Votichenko, Bob Kammerle, Mike Kern, Bill and Kathy Knowler, Don and Greg Weir, Glen and Danny Lockwood, Bill Parker, Erin Rogers, Marshall and Julie Smart, Candace and Darcy Hughes, Roger Lurie, and Tom Parker. A million thanks to all of you. The garden looks great because of you.

## Dream #4 Task Force

Facilitators: Glen Lockwood and Bill Parker

Members: Julie Smart, Sally Boyd, Amy McCluer, Jeannie Crewson, Nancy Hochwald, Jan Kaplan, Betty Foley, Ella Jeffers, Ellie Murphy, Peggy Paden, Jean Lawton, and Mark Dobie

Charge: Increase and hold membership.

1. Develop a formal program to encourage member contact with newcomers.
2. Create a special greeters program to assist new families with newcomers.
3. Develop a program to provide rides to Sunday celebrations and other programs.

### Accomplishments :

1. Introduction of visitors/new members during Sunday morning services.
2. Membership is actively encouraged to greet and engage visitors.
3. Membership committee has made a concerted effort to recruit greeters/ushers.
4. Visitors/new members coffee hour table has been tried for several Sundays.
5. Developed a flow chart of the steps required to move from a casual visitor to membership/friends status.
6. A representative of the RGL committee now assists the front door greeters to help families with children.
7. The responsibility for a ride program has been assumed by the Unicare Committee.
8. A new member class is planned for the fall.

Submitted by  
Glen Lockwood and Bill Parker

Report for the buildings and grounds committee: 1996-97

Perhaps the most successful accomplishment of the buildings and grounds committee (and its ancillary ad hoc committees) was the completion - primarily in the fall - of three major projects initiated in the 1995 Build the Dream process.

First, during last summer and early fall, both restrooms were completely renovated with new fixtures, new flooring and repainting. It was the first significant refurbishment of these two much-used facilities since the church was built.

In a related project, the floor of the kitchen was retiled.

Second, throughout the year fine-tuning has continued on the sanctuary sound system as, practically every week, we learn of more opportunities available to us with the technology. At the same time, a cadre of committed volunteers has developed that take turns operating the system each Sunday and trouble-shooting as problems arise.

Third, substantial improvements have been made on the air conditioning system along with major maintenance work and repairs that had been put off in the past - in some cases for as long as 10 years.

All of these "Build the Dream" projects were the product of small committees of extremely positive volunteers working through the technical problems, coming up with a plan to finance the projects and then assuring the support of the congregation before moving ahead with some of the most significant capital improvements made to our church in some time.

In many ways, that was just the beginning.

This past fall, every single window in our church that still had the original - and very dangerous - plate glass was replaced by more up-to-date - and much safer - shatter-proof glass.

In response to a couple break-ins during the year, the board of trustees chose to go ahead with a plan for a security system for the church office that will sound an alarm whenever a door is tampered with or someone who should not be there enters. While, as Unitarian-Universalists, we believe our church should be accessible to the widest group of people possible, the demands of a safe, secure atmosphere compelled such a compromise.

Two major Grubby Saturdays were held in the fall and spring that, between them, drew somewhere close to 100 individuals to work on projects throughout the church grounds. A smaller Grubby Saturday group continues to meet at the church on alternate Saturday mornings in further preparation for the attention anticipated at the church during next month's General Assembly. (For more on the accomplishments of those groups and other achievements in the

memorial garden, see the report of the memorial garden committee.)

As the deadline for this report approaches, plans are in place to ask the congregation for permission to purchase duplicating equipment so the office staff can continue to supply the church's need for newsletters, orders of service and other publications in an efficient way.

Finally, task forces that developed from the 1996 Build the Dream process continue to work on plans for renovating the church library, the meditation garden, the patio, safer access for vehicles to and from Lincoln Drive and parking lot expansion.

Michael Hart  
Marshall Smart,  
Buildings and grounds trustees



## Music Committee First Unitarian Universalist Church of Phoenix

The purpose of the Music Committee is to oversee the activities of the Adult Choir, foster the creation and facilitation of new projects and direct the formulation of the budget and disbursement of funds as falls within the jurisdiction of this Committee in behalf of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Phoenix Adult Choir and act as liaison between Board of Trustees, the Music Oversight Committee and the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Phoenix Adult Choir.

The Music Committee is comprised of approximately eight choir members, and, hopefully, two at-large members who are non-choir members of the congregation. Members terms are two years in duration, with three to four new members being selected every year. The Music Director also meets with the Music Committee. The Committee officers are Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. The Vice-Chair also serves as Choir President.

Myra Banks has served as Chair of the Committee during 1996-97. We were without a Vice-Chair/Choir President until early in the year when John (Jack) Holliday agreed to accept that responsibility. Jack has been a godsend for the Choir, keeping the members abreast of activities in the Music Oversight Committee and working diligently on the Cabaret planning and soliciting donations for a raffle. Jerry Whalin has served as the Committee's Secretary for two years, and we greatly appreciate his diligent note-taking and thorough minutes. Joanne Michael is the Committee's Treasurer, and, as such, has worked with office staff to keep current of expenditures and present this information to the Committee. Other members include Jay Finkelstein (ex-officio as Choir Accompanist), Jean Lawton, Sharon Hise, Ruth Thistlewaite (who has also served as unofficial Choir Librarian for 10 years), Richard Jahrmarkt, Sally Boyd and Frank Herman and our newest member, Mary Anne Poggenburg. Former Chairs, Trena Allen, Sharon Hise and Richard Jahrmarkt have been indispensable with their advice and suggestions. Choir members or members of the congregation are welcome to attend any Music Committee meeting, the times of which are provided in the Sunday bulletin.

The Music Committee meets usually once a month on a Sunday when the choir performs or on Wednesday night one hour prior to the regularly-scheduled Adult Choir rehearsal time. It is the responsibility of the Music Committee to formulate and submit an annual budget to the Board of Trustees as well as to work with the Music Director in setting goals, participating in auditioning and interviewing prospective Music Director candidates, planning, organizing and performing or carrying out such fund-raising events and/or special musical events as Cabaret (with dinner/dessert prepared by Pauline and Hugh Gay), a Holiday Musical Concert, Arpeggio (a dinner/concert evening with Rosie Hermaun as chef) etc., offering feedback on pertinent sanctuary improvements (such as the new sound system), planning social activities and/or other business as required or requested by Choir members or others.

We are very proud of our Choir and take great joy in presenting a variety of musical choral offerings for the congregation's pleasure and appreciation.

Respectfully submitted,



Myra Banks, Chair  
Music Committee  
First Unitarian Universalist Church of Phoenix

## ADDENDUM

### Adult Religious Growth Committee Report

The Adult RGL Committee continued scheduling one Sunday morning forum per month. Topics included social action, current legislative sessions, Buddha beliefs, parenting and depression. Fritz Hudson also presented a series of spiritual growth forums.

Courses presented included Ethics, facilitated by Charlie Lynch, and a shortened course of Infinity in Your Hand, facilitated by Louise Bercaw and Charlie Lynch.

The book table handled by Elizabeth Fries and Greg Maston continued to be successful. Thor Anderson made a cabinet for more convenient storage.

Lois Leader effectively handled publicity.

Respectively submitted,

Charlie Lynch  
Jan Tatman  
Co-chairs