

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix

**Annual Report to the Congregation
2000 – 2001**

SCOPE

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix Annual Report is:

1. A mission-based annual report to the Congregation by the groups, committees, and staff positions within the Congregation, which describes how each group, committee, or position supports the goals and mission of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix.
2. A compendium of the interests, activities and events in the life of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix over the last congregational year.

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Board of Trustees
2000 – 2001 Annual Report to the
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The Board of Trustees for the 2000/2001 Congregational year:

President: Betty Sayler

Vice President: Bob Olson, (resigned midyear and was replaced by Peter Fears)

Treasurer: Sue Baird.

Finance Trustee: Joel Schmitz.

Lifespan RG&L Trustees: Susan Brenchley and Marcia Jepson.

Adult Programs Trustees: Heather McLellan and Jane Pauk

Membership Trustees: Sean Gallagher and Judy Smart.

Building and Grounds Trustees: Bill Roberts and Richard Jahrmarkt, (resigned in March and was replaced by Dale Fisher)

The Board entered this year clear in our minds that we must dedicate time and energy to internal loving, nurturing, and maintenance. As a congregation we had much to prove to each other and ourselves. It was necessary to step into the arena of trust and caring and support before we were once again comfortable and secure and proud of our membership in the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix. We were ready to embrace our new minister and open our hearts to wisdom and guidance.

The Board along with many other members looked with new eyes at our building and land -- our sacred space -- our spiritual home, and found it tattered and neglected. There was a stark contrast between our new Sanctuary and every other aspect of our facility. Beginning last summer on through this spring dust and dirt filled the air. Groups of people, painted and scrubbed, dug and hauled, repaired and replaced inside and outside of the building. Priorities have been set for the next few years that include handicapped access and a remodeled handicapped bathroom, a new kitchen, continued upgrading of the grounds and renovation of meeting rooms. With the help of parents from Desert View Learning Center the upper parking lot will be improved and landscaped. We are proud of these accomplishments and determined to continue this progress.

At the same time, our new called minister, John Burciaga, arrived and began the settling-in process. We were intent on creating an environment that would be supportive and rich -- one in which he would grow and be successful.

The PSWD Executive Director, Ken Brown, facilitated a meeting that led to the adoption of a Leadership Covenant. We agreed on our direction and on the manner in which we would relate to each other. We hope to expand the covenanting process to include the total congregation next year.

Other goals set by the Board such as clarifying administrative functions and priorities, upgrading our computer capacity and financial accounting, conceiving a leadership development process, developing skills in conflict management, and establishing a new member integration process -- are well underway. This work creates a sound foundation for continued progress in these areas.

Another major undertaking involved an offer/request from the parents of the Desert View Leaning Center. They expressed interest in adding a fourth grade to their school. This would require adding approximately 2000 square feet to the annex. Their offer included working with the Town of Paradise Village to get the special use permit, supervising the building and donating the \$300,000 addition to the congregation. We are one Planning Commission hearing away from making this a reality. Construction will begin in mid June and be completed sometime next fall. When DVLC moves all of their operation into the annex additional space will be available for our Religious Growth and Learning. The new space will also be available to the Congregation during off school hours.

We believe we are positioned to have a very productive 2001/2002-year. We expect to get valuable information from the survey conducted by the Committee on Ministry to use as we launch a strategic planning process.

Respectfully submitted; Betty Sayler, President.

Report of the Called Minister
2000 – 2001 Annual Report to the
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A challenging, productive and fulfilling first year it has been! It has been suggested that we “celebrate” this milestone at today’s meeting and, if so, it is well deserved. Challenges abounded, but strong lay leadership, diligent attention to congregational relations, and visioning towards community ministry made for programs both balanced and healthy. Transitions also have marked our first year’s journey: joining me on staff have been Jessie Shotwell, administrator, and Lisa Casey, director of Religious Growth and Learning—making Connie Clemons “dean” of staff! I thank the Search committee, chaired by Jenny Scrivner, that brought me here and represented you so well; and those who brought us Jessie and Lisa. Thanks to Gloria Keenan for leading our education program during the search for Lisa, under Betsy Kammerle’s leadership, and to the RG&L committee and Diana Saylor for preserving our church school.

It was a good year because so many of you love this congregation and are dedicated to it. Whatever inspiration comes from our Sunday celebrations, the real work of the church is in the trenches: the month to month responsibilities of board members and committee chairs; the love for, and learning by, our children; dedication to pastoral care; and passion for community service. Our UniCare ministry not only reaches out to our congregational family as needed but is considering provision of “time-out” for those who are sole caregivers for loved ones, and we are establishing visits with those unable to be with us regularly. Because of Kermit and Billye Butler, “Daytimers” also is a renewed and viable program.

Groundwork is being laid for a growing ministry to our community. We are building on this church’s long involvement in the Booker T. Washington Head Start program in Phoenix’s inner city by assessing the role we might have in contiguous neighborhoods. I and other members have established contacts with community and neighborhood leaders in those areas, and I will continue language study to enhance my service among the Spanish speaking residents. We have re-connected with Valley Interfaith Project and planning “house meetings” to strengthen our own bonds and vision for the larger community; and a fall training in anti-racism, led jointly by district and denominational leaders, will help us examine the roots of classism and economic injustice. Along the way, I have represented you among Mexican-American and Native American constituencies and hope to have a role in establishing their mutual relationships.

None of our outreach will long prosper however unless we flourish at home. Strengthening our internal programs is essential to the coming year. Our new member

process this year had spectacular results with the leadership of Julie Smart and Ellie Murphy, and the New UU classes will double in the coming year with additional people helping with orientation. We look to restore Adult Education as a viable part of our Growth and Learning, and are evaluation the best relationship deserved by the schools associated with us. Jessie's managerial skills have made a huge difference in our office and day-to-day administration, along with dedicated volunteers who make our office an effective and true crossroads of the church. I cannot say too much regarding the leadership of Betty Saylor as our president. She applies real know-how and realism to her elected responsibilities, and those who serve with her are splendid in their cooperation and support. Throughout his Board tenure, Robert Olson was the backbone of policy review and oversight procedures. The presence of Joel Schmitz and Sue Baird gives us great confidence in our financial evaluations; and trustees Susan Brenchley and Marcia Jepson earned my grateful admiration for their courageous support of our education program. Your former president, Susan Goldsmith, has been the "moving spirit" of our mutual accountability: through her we are building leadership and establishing healthy interrelations. Jesse and Sharon Hise led us in a record campaign of annual support that began a new era for this congregation. And never have I enjoyed such a diligent Committee on Ministry as I do here, auguring much assurance for ministerial-congregational relations; or a more determined believers in social action. I am well supported not only on Sundays when I lead services, but during my contractual absences, thanks to the Sunday Services committee. And those who add so much to the beauty and serviceability of our precious building and grounds deserve special applause: Janice Brunson, Audrey Mawson and Gene Rowley, Robert Murphy, Bob Leesley, Flip Higgins and others.

We have a firm foundation on which to build in the coming year, as we celebrate our formal status as a truly "Welcoming Congregation"!

John Burciaga

Treasurer
**2000 – 2001 Annual Report to the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix.**

Supporting the Mission of Our Congregation

The money we receive in pledge gifts, contributions, facilities' rentals, and fundraisers is used to support all parts of our mission. Simply put, in order to offer high quality Sunday services, support our religious growth and learning and other programs and reach out and be effective in the community, we need money to pay for our professional staff, our association fees, our utility bills and our office and program supplies. For this fiscal year, a balanced budget of \$323,770 was presented and passed by the congregation at our January 21st meeting.

Pledge Drive

Our pledge drive for 2001 was conducted in the fall of 2000. Jessie and Sharon Hise co-chaired an energetic and fun committee made up of Sue Baird, Steve Bartlett, Jan Kaplan, Heather McLellan, Joel and Mark Schmitz. The theme chosen, "Vision Possible: 2001," was a take off on the "Mission Impossible" and "2001: A Space Odyssey" movies. Having just come through a difficult period in the Congregation's history, the theme represented hope and renewal and seemed to work well.

We received \$224,000 in pledge gifts, which represented a \$39,000 increase over the previous year. Emphasis was given to how much each family or person pledging could increase their pledge gift per week. Ellie Murphy created a wonderful poster, which was placed in the entryway, so the congregation could monitor its progress during the pledge drive season.

The Pledge Drive began with asking congregation leaders to pledge first as pacesetters. The Pledge Drive dinner, organized by Sharon Hise, emphasized fun and community. It was held on Saturday evening, October 20th and was a great success with 127 attending. In order to keep the work of putting on a meal to a minimum, it was done in potluck-style, with each table picking its own theme, bringing food, dishes, flatware and table decorations. The Pledge Drive Committee and choir put its energy in to the entertainment portion of the program, which consisted of a wonderful skit in which Betty Sayler, our Board president, checked with "HAL" the computer about the need for a substantial increase in pledging. "HAL", a cynical computer, tells Betty that it's not needed nor possible, while Betty rebuts him. While this is going on, "HAL" begins to pick up errant radio signals, which allows the choir to sing musical parodies of "money" songs and is followed by a wonderful appearance of Jim & Tammy Baye Fakker (Jessie and Sharon Hise) who use their teleministry zeal to promote UU values. The evening was truly enjoyable with tasty food, laughter and great community spirit.

With the wonderful organization and follow up of Jesse and Sharon, the pledge drive was successfully concluded in December. The Finance Committee composed of Sue Baird, Jim Lynch, Mark and Joel Schmitz and Melissa Schwartz ended up with the relatively easy job of recommending a balanced budget of \$323,770, with minimal cuts to committee requests, to the Board of Trustees.

Fundraisers

House Parties!

In September, 2000, for the third year in a row, we offered “House Parties” as a fundraiser. These are parties or events hosted by congregation members and open to the whole congregation for a donation. The donations go toward the congregation’s general fund.

There were seven House Parties offered. They were primarily dinner parties and thanks to these wonderful and generous hosts -- Jean and Morton Rosenberg, Rita van Alakamade and Tim Tilton, Joel and Mark Schmitz, Mary Lou Evans, Betty Saylor and Robbie Kern, Jack and Jane Grenard, Bob and Diane Olson -- a total of \$2002.49 was raised.

Renaissance Feaste – Huzzah, huzzah!

A new type of fundraiser for our congregation was given on Saturday night, December 9th. Thanks to the vision, great leadership and hard work of Mary Ann Poggenberg, who had previous experience running a Renaissance Festival for her UU church in Ohio, our first Renaissance Feaste was successful in every way. Our sanctuary was transformed in to a 15th century banquet hall by Dan Cook and our senior high volunteers; a sumptuous six-course dinner was prepared by Chef James Goodreau and volunteers and served up by our coming-of-age youth; entertainment including singing, dancing and a sword fight was arranged by Karen Cook and assisted by Connie Clemmons and the choir. 108 people, mostly in costume, attended, paying \$35 each which raised almost \$2000 for the congregation after expenses. A second Renaissance Feaste is being planned for February, 2002.

Fuud Cuupons!

Because Joel and Mark Schmitz were convinced that our “grocery store certificate” program could be greatly expanded, it has been re-introduced and renamed “Fuud Cuupons.”

These cuupons are actually “gift certificates” that are purchased from several local grocery stores (Abco, Frys, Bashas, and Safeway) and are sold at face value. The

congregation receives 5% of the cost and congregation members and friends are encouraged to use them to make their ordinary grocery and household item purchases.

As this is being written, we are finding a 200% increase over last year's sales. We hope that more of our members and friends will utilize this program, as it is a very easy way to raise money for our congregation at no extra cost to those using it.

Future Fundraisers

Spring House Parties

Jean and Morton Rosenberg and Sally Boyd and Nancy Hochwald are hosting dinner parties in their homes in May and June as house party fundraisers for the congregation.

China Tour

An all-inclusive, 11 day tour of China is planned for November, 2001 as a fundraiser. It is hoped that the congregation will receive \$2,000 from this and that those going will have an enjoyable and memorable trip for about \$1,890 per person.

Financial Record Keeping

Thanks to Joel Schmitz, Finance Trustee, our financial records have been cleaned up and brought up-to-date. Joel, who works in the area of finance, has devoted many hours and his expertise to this project. With the assistance of our interim administrator, Jessie Shotwell, an upgraded church financial program has been installed in our computer system and has made record-keeping and report generating much easier and less time-consuming. Well done Joel and Jessie!

Final Thoughts

After years of painful budget cuts, it has been gratifying to achieve most of our financial goals for the year. For the first time in years, we were able to do this without using Foundation money. With the vision and leadership of John Burciaga, the increasing commitment of the congregation, and the loving and wise direction from our Board of Trustees we should be financially strong enough to continue the refurbishing of our buildings and take our message and energy into our Community Ministry program.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Baird
Treasurer

Building and Grounds Committee
2000 – 2001 Annual Report to the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix.

The Building & Grounds Committee is responsible for coordinating the congregation's efforts to maintain and improve the building and grounds and to provide guidance for long term planning and projects. In both of these areas the committee had an exceptionally active year.

Over the summer the main focus was in preparing the building and grounds for the arrival of the new Minister. This was a massive effort led by Janice Brunson aided by numerous volunteers in addition to outside professionals. Projects included new carpeting in the sanctuary and entry, painting of offices, classrooms, halls and the sanctuary ceiling, lots of cleanup inside and out, replacement and adjustment of lighting in the sanctuary and hallways and new office furnishings. The results were spectacular and the building really was a place to be proud of by the time John arrived. At the same time, thanks to a project initiated by Richard Jahrmarkt, a new, modern lighting control system was installed in the sanctuary. This has improved the quality of lighting and provides unique lighting scenarios for services, dinners and special events.

In addition to the regular Saturday Clean up Days we have had an almost continuous program of garden cleanup and improvements during the year. Thanks to the leadership of Audrey Mawson, the Olson Meditation Garden was totally redesigned and landscaped, the parking lot islands were repaired, cleaned, trimmed and replanted and pruning was undertaken throughout the church grounds. Special thanks to everyone who helped and to those members who have adopted one of the parking lot islands for on-going maintenance.

Other repairs and improvements during the year included: new driveway entry lighting, new heating units and a new walkway and gate in the school annex, additional painting and repair of trim, doors and eaves and recent repairs to the electrical and irrigation systems in the Memorial Garden

The committee invited the Rev. David Gilmartin to a meeting in January to help us better understand the issues regarding both physical accessibility and program accessibility in the church. Marshall Smart has agreed to head up the new Sound and Lighting Team who provide volunteers to manage the sound system on Sunday and for special events.

Thanks to James Goodreau and Janice Brunson we have made an excellent beginning on a project to modernize the kitchen. A new oven is in place and donations for the kitchen

shower have given us new service for 200 people. The committee is working on planning and fundraising to install a vent hood to meet current codes, a new commercial stove, dishwasher and a general upgrading of storage and work surfaces.

The committee worked with the Desert View Learning Center in support of their planning for a new building. This included closing the driveway entrance on 40th Place and moving the trash container to the paved parking area, both at the request of the town. Several exciting new projects are included in the planning for the DVLC building including a new church sign on Lincoln Street, a section of the new building for church storage and the possibility of a handicapped entrance via a ramp at the front of the church. Other new projects being discussed for the coming year include remodeling of the handicap bathroom, addition of a system to aid the hard of hearing and cleanup and upgrading of the UUEEC playground.

We truly appreciate the tremendous efforts of the many volunteers who have participated in Building & Grounds projects during the last year and we welcome anyone who has an interest in working with us in planning and organizing to join us.

Dale Fisher, Bill Roberts
Building & Grounds Trustees

Nominating Committee
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Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix.**

The Nominating Committee began its work in November 2000 with one goal - to suggest two nominees for the UU Foundation. We accomplished our goal, naming Marg Stahlworthy and Joan Roberts to the Foundation. Marg and Joan were re-elected to the Foundation .

Our goal for the January to May 2001 term was to select six nominees for the 2001-2002 UU Board of Trustees and three nominees to replace senior members of our own committee. We “advertised” the selection process by interest questionnaires that were distributed to the congregation via Horizons and the Sunday Order of Service. We requested congregation members to nominate themselves or others by completing interest forms. The slate of Board nominees was ready in April: Betty Sayler, President; Peter Fears, Vice President; Sally Boyd, Membership Trustee; Kathy Ivey, Finance Trustee; Dale Fisher, Buildings and Grounds Trustee; Sean Gallagher, Children’s Programs Trustee; and Jean Rosenberg, Adult Programs Trustee. If approved by the congregation, Julie Smart would remain on the board one more year as Senior Trustee of Membership, and Betty Sayler would remain one more year as President.

The nominees for the Nominating Committee are Ellie Murphy, Richard Jahrmarkt, and Shirley Karas. This slate will be presented to the congregation for a vote at our annual June meeting. All prospective Board of Trustee nominees and Nominating Committee nominees submitted biographies that appeared in the May Horizons and will be distributed at the June all-congregation meeting.

I believe I can speak for others in the group, as well as myself, when I say that I always looked forward to our meetings. They were not only occasions to do important work for our congregation, but time to become closer to each other as committee members.

Sincerely,
Marshal Smart

Committee on Ministry
**2000 – 2001 Annual Report to the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix.**

Members: Ellie Anderla, Chair, Brenda Hoskins, Recorder, Ruth Amster, Susan Goldsmith, Bob Revette, Steve Magee.

This is the second year for the Committee on Ministry. Peter Fears began this year as a member of the committee, but resigned to take a spot on the Board of Trustees. Bob Revette kindly stepped in to take his place.

We began our year in August with a day long retreat with committee members, including John Burciaga, then in his first week with our congregation, and Sue Baird, as a representative of the Board.

When this committee was charged to promote and support our shared ministry, one aspect of that charge was to "plan to assess every facet of our Congregation's ministry on an ongoing basis." This year we were to examine the Congregation's performance. To this end, we spent considerable time creating the first Annual Review of the Congregation's Ministry, which was distributed in April. At this writing, the data from this review is being collated and we expect a report will be available in June.

As the Conflict Management Advisory Group is a subcommittee of the Committee on Ministry, we have met together to discuss our roles and relationship to one another.

This congregation is still in the process of defining shared ministry for itself; generally shared ministry recognizes that everything we do together is ministry and we all share responsibilities. The concept of shared ministry and a Committee on Ministry to facilitate this are new to us and to Unitarian Universalism. Someone said, "We are making this up as we go along and I have no apology about that." However, we are pleased to learn that the UUCP is ahead of most other churches as we move into shared ministry.

Leadership Training Committee
**2000 – 2001 Annual Report to the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix.**

Our Congregation's mission calls us to embrace diversity, pursue UU principles, share ministry that promotes spiritual growth and be effective in the greater community. It's a huge challenge - one that will be well served by all of us becoming more effective leaders and more effective followers. This year, in-house leadership training got its start at UUCP.

The impetus for creating a Leadership Training Committee (LTC) came from last year's Leadership Day and from the Committee on Ministry (COM). Recognizing that we have been developing our leadership capacity for the past several years, the COM and the Congregation's Leadership Council felt it was time to take the next step, to become more intentional in addressing specific leadership needs in our congregation. In support of this effort, this year's Congregation budget has a line for leadership training.

An ad hoc planning committee worked from October till December to analyze our current leadership challenges, to survey current leaders as to leadership development needs, and to create the ground work for establishing a permanent Leadership Training Committee. The permanent LTC convened for the first time in February; we continue to meet monthly, to meet with the committees of the congregation both to find out what they think the needs are and to offer some materials that might be helpful. Most members attended the spring PSWD Skills Conference in Tucson; 18 UUCP members were there!

The committee begins from several "understandings" about leadership:

Leadership is shared.

We are all leaders some of the time; we are all followers some of the time.

We all deserve to know what to expect from both leaders and followers.

Leaders uncover, support and enrich the gifts of all of us.

Leaders take responsibility for planning, organizing, facilitating.

Leaders need and deserve continuing education.

Leadership may be seen as an opportunity for spiritual growth.

Our leaders have expressed a need for training in understanding our congregation's structures, in ways to involve more people, in methods for more effective meetings, in procedures we all need to know, in communication skills. The LTC is planning workshops, reading groups, and a consultant corps to be in full swing by the fall of 2001. We will participate in planning and conducting the annual Leadership Day in September. We will be creating ways to recognize and support the leaders among us.

We are gathering materials and expertise from any and all quarters - if you have either to share please let one of us know! Thanks to all who worked on either or both committees. Here are their names:

Sue Baird
Susan Goldsmith
Bob Kammerle
Muriel Osder
Tim Tilton

Susan Brenchley
Chuck Ivey
Glen Lockwood
Jan Parsons
Jaynn Truran

Gene Cherry
Kathy Ivey
Diane Olson
Julie Smart
Rita van Alkemade

Membership Program
2000 – 2001 Annual Report to the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix.

The Membership trustees who head up the Membership Program oversee and coordinate the efforts of History and Archives, chaired by Gretchen Manker, the Publicity Committee, chaired by Jean Rosenberg, the Newcomer and Hospitality Committee, chaired by Lynne Powers, and the Unicare Committee, co-chaired by Ellie Murphy and Bill Parker.

These committees work to attract and welcome new members and friends, assist and support members and friends in times of personal need and encourage members and friends to participate in the shared ministry of the congregation.

Please refer to the reports of these committees, which can be found in their respective sections of this report. If you find the work of any of these committees to be of personal interest please contact the chairs listed above or the congregation office to become a part of their ministry.

This year the trustees, with the full assistance of Ellie Murphy, presented the New UU program for new and prospective members. This series of two classes and a pot-luck are presented on two consecutive Sunday mornings at 9:00 in the church library with the pot-luck on the following Saturday. This year we had two classes, one in November and the second in March. Joann Michaels and Janice Brunson kindly offered their homes for the pot-luck.

Following each series of classes, the new members were introduced to the congregation in a short ceremony after a Sunday service. Members were introduced with a short bio and given a flower, membership card, and their bolo tie. At our last introduction in April we included signing of the book in the ceremony.

The membership trustees also published a new all congregation directory. This was done with the help of Jan Parsons and Jesse Shotwell who updated the data base, the faithful collators, and Ellie Murphy who designed the cover and, along with the help of Bob Murphy, assembled the directories.

Our challenge for the coming year is to expand the number of our New UU classes, to continue to support our committees with their important work and to foster the caring ministry that is the heart of our Congregation.

Our thanks to the many who have helped in so many ways this year. A special thanks to Rev. Burciaga who has supported us by meeting with newcomers on a regular basis and participating in the New UU classes.

Julie Smart, Senior Membership Trustee

Sean Gallagher, Junior Membership Trustee

Senior Committee Members: Jeremy Mussman, Ellen Bauman, Marshal Smart

Junior Committee Members: Glenn Lockwood, Charlie Lynch, Jan Kaplan

Sunday Services Committee
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The Sunday Services Committee is responsible for conducting the Sunday services for the eight weeks during the summer when our minister, Rev. John Burciaga, is on vacation and professional leave. We also are responsible for services once a month, usually on the fourth Sunday, during the rest of the year. Our services strive to embody our Unitarian Universalist principles and promote spiritual growth.

Committee members this year are Ruth Amster, Chair; Jim Lynch, Treasurer; Linda Walker, Recorder; Heather McLellan, Board Representative; Jay Alagia, Richard Campbell, Barbara Voth, Archie Walker, Julie Wambach, Rick Wambach, and Rev. John Burciaga, ex-officio member.

Putting on 20 services a year is not an easy task. We draw from outside speakers, speakers from our congregation and other UU congregations. We try to present variety in our services to interest everyone with a more relaxed format in the summer time. Our service leaders are committee members and other congregation members who have expressed an interest in leading a service. Without their help, it would be a much more difficult task.

Our speakers from outside the congregation included Tom Shoemaker, who spoke about Native Americans with Sue Kennedy leading the service; Charles Babbitt, who surveyed environmental problems; and Calvin Goode, who talked about freedom, and Tom Hinton, who led Dances for Universal Peace (an August tradition), The Women's Spirituality Circle with Kathy Kruse leading, presented an outstanding Women's History service. Jay Alagia and Tish Gauntt spoke about mental illness coordinating with the art show featuring art by mentally ill patients, to name a few Celebrations of Life this year.

It takes a number of people to make Sunday morning a wonderful experience. We would like to thank the volunteers who faithfully show up each Sunday to operate our sound system, and those who bring flowers to add to the beauty of the service. Diana Saylor and Gloria Keenan have coordinated the children's portion of the service with us and we appreciate their help.

Extra special thanks go to Connie Clemons, who works with us to plan music appropriate to the theme of the service. And to Rev. John Burciaga who plans closely with us. He provides a great resource, drawing from his years of experience in the ministry.

As outgoing Chair, I give heartfelt thanks to all the committee who have worked so hard

to develop the services this year. You were a wonderful committee to work with and I'm sure future services will meet the professional standards you have set.

Ruth Amster, Chair

Music Director
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The Music Director is responsible for the music which is performed for Sunday Services and is involved in planning music for special events of the congregation. This position also includes direction of the Congregation Choir and the newly formed Family Choir. Sunday Services music includes preludes, postludes and offertories, hymn accompaniment and scheduling of special music. Over the past year, more and more members of the congregation have shared their appreciation of the music being provided for services. It is apparent that music remains vital to the life of this congregation.

This past year I have worked with the ministerial staff and with the Sunday Services committee to plan music for Sunday Services. I also worked with the Canvas Committee in directing the fall Funding dinner skit, and with the Madrigal committee in planning the Madrigal event.

The Music Committee enabled me to attend the Unitarian Universalist Musician's Network Conference in San Diego. The conference held daily workshops, choral reading sessions, performance opportunities and the gathering of ideas from colleagues. One of the most valuable part of the conference was the gathering of ideas for choral music selections to use in our Sunday Services.

The Congregation Choir has led singing and performed anthems for two to three Sunday services each month. The choir also provided choral music for the Madrigal Event in December and the Christmas Eve service. In May the Congregation Choir combined with the choir from the Valley UU Church in Chandler. The combined choirs performed a service full of music one Sunday at the UU Congregation of Phoenix and then at the services in Chandler. The choirs were accompanied by piano, harpsichord continuo and violins. Additional music for this service was provided by the Chandler's church brass choir. The Congregation Choir also planned and performed in the annual fund-raiser, Cabaret.

The new choir this year is the Family Choir. The requirements for membership are that you be under the age of 18 or you come with someone under the age of 18. The Family Choir has provided choral anthems, preludes and introits for one Sunday a month during this past year. The Family Choir also performed in the annual Cabaret Show and were

part of the music for the combined programs with the Valley UU choir. The Family Choir provides opportunity for the youth of this congregation to participate in choral performances on a regular basis.

Soloists from our congregation and guest soloists have also helped fill out the music program both on Sunday mornings and for special events. We are fortunate to have many talent musicians in our congregation. It is good to hear the youth musicians who are growing up in the congregation.

We especially appreciate our choral accompanist, Ed Grobe, for all the music he shares both as the accompanist and as a soloist.

The work of choral librarian, Ruth Thislethwaite, has assured that the music in our library is properly organized. This is essential work without which the choir would have no music to sing. Many thanks to Ruth.

Again, it has been a full year. As time goes by I become more aware of the rich heritage of music that is being created by Unitarian Universalist musicians. The UU hymnal is a prime example. It is a compilation of music wedded to texts which reflect UU values. The music comes from many sources, old and new. In the next few years one of my goals is to familiarize myself and the congregation with the music and poetry treasures in the UU hymnal. Yes, we will learn to know and love hymns we don't now know and which appear tricky to sing. As the music and texts of the hymns become more a part of us, the singing of them becomes more vital and rewarding on Sunday mornings. I look forward to continuing to serve the congregation in the coming year and to making more music.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Clemons, Music Director

Children's RG&L Committee
2000 – 2001 Annual Report to the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix.

It has been a challenging year. Barbara Geis our director of two years resigned in late summer. The Children's RG&L Committee continued to work diligently, with all its members taking on many more responsibilities to ensure that the children's program succeeded. In January Gloria Keenan was hired as the Interim Director of the Children's RG&L program.

In addition to this hard working group, there was another group of individuals who gave of their time and energy to hire the next Director of Lifespan RG&L for our congregation. They were successful in this endeavor in May when Lisa Casey was hired. There will be a period of time when Gloria will work side by side with Lisa to bring her "on-board" and assist in decreasing the learning curve time. We are looking forward to having a long-lasting relationship with Lisa our new director.

As we tell you specifically about all our "goings-on", we would like to do it in a different format this year. We would like to categorize the activities and other topics under the three areas of our religious mission that we as a congregation defined this winter.

**EMBRACE DIVERSITY AS WE ENGAGE IN THE PASSIONATE PURSUIT OF
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST PRINCIPLES**

- Facilitating the congregation wide holiday potluck and activities to celebrate the winter holidays.
- Hana Matsuri Celebration in our RG&L classrooms
- Beltane Celebration

**SHARE MINISTRY THAT PROMOTES LIFELONG SPIRITUAL GROWTH
THROUGH SERVICE, WORSHIP, RITUAL AND EDUCATION, THEREBY
INSPIRING LIVES OF JOY AND HOPE**

- Greeting members, friends and newcomers as they enter the church on Sunday to assist families with children to the proper place for each of their children and to answer any questions that they might have.
- Teaching recruitment
- Hiring Director for the Children Program
- Teacher training
- Creating charges from each CRG&L class for John Burciaga installation, teacher recognition in May
- Secret Pals - where the young and the old got to know each other a bit better

- Easter egg hunt
- Ice Cream Social - when the children got to make their own ice cream
- Water Day - where the children got to have a ton of fun playing with UU friends in water
- Teacher Appreciation Breakfast
- Youth recognition for graduating *New Lives Celebration
- Summer program for the CRG&L - where multi level age activities are provided for the 5 and older group by the members in our congregation

GROW AND BE EFFECTIVE IN THE GREATER COMMUNITY

- Unicef Pumpkin Sunday
- ICM box - making this apart of the children sermon time each week
- Contributing to the desserts that were taken to the New Day Center
- Contributing books to the book drive for the Booker T. Washington School

We will be meeting over the summer to establish our goals and responsibilities for the coming year, order new curriculum for our classes and to establish safety guidelines for our volunteer teachers in the Children's RG&L program.

Submitted by the Children's Religious Growth and Learning Committee Gloria Keenan - Interim Director of the Children's RG&L Program Diana Saylor – Chairperson Terry Lockwood, Linda Maley, Moira Revette, Anne Scott

Administrator
**2000 – 2001 Annual Report to the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix**

This has been a year of change in our congregation and our administration did not remain unaffected. Policies, procedures and personnel have all undergone major transformations. Early in the year, our Administrator, Jan Parsons, resigned and I stepped in on a volunteer basis to facilitate a personnel change. Within a few weeks, I assessed that our systems were sorely outdated, many of our procedures were cumbersome and inefficient and our volunteer staff was underutilized. I reported my findings to the Board of Trustees with the proposed solution that I go on staff for one year, in the position of Interim Administrator, with a special charter to resolve these issues.

The Board agreed and charged me with:

1. Transitioning the membership database from the old DOS-based system to a Windows program
2. Creating a policy manual
3. Streamlining office procedures
4. Training volunteers to maximize this workforce
5. Creating an environment that best supports the minister
6. Recruiting, hiring, and training my replacement at the end of one year

As I began this effort, I was delighted to realize the quantity and quality of volunteer support available. I quickly learned that I would not work alone to complete this charter, and that the work this 95% volunteer staff produced would far exceed all expectations.

Currently, items 1 and 5 are complete, items 3 and 4 are about half-done, we are just beginning item 2 and we plan to begin item 6 later this year. Additionally, as we work, we have identified many more areas in which we can further support the congregation.

We have:

1. Eliminated the Administrative Assistant position in the office (an annual cost savings of about \$14,000)
2. Rearranged the office, eliminating one workstation and creating a “volunteer” desk.
3. Networked the office so that volunteers can manage the database from the volunteer desk
4. Begun training volunteers to maintain the database
5. Increased and standardized office hours
6. Reorganized facilities:
 - a. Cleaned out all cabinets

- b. Created space for Music Program storage
- c. Reorganized Office 2 for much more efficient use of the space by all

In the next few months, we plan to:

1. Continue work on the policy manual, an effort that we anticipate will create many questions and highlight more areas of necessary improvement, particularly regarding our rental relationships.
2. Make the few procedural changes necessary to allow the office to remain closed on Sundays, thereby keeping this one day each week sacred for worship service.
3. Continue to put procedures into place that support each committee, such as activity attendance tracking and communication systems.
4. Learn to maintain the Web site in preparation of being the “Webmaster,” when our wonderful volunteer Webmaster, Kerri Hamberg, leaves the country.

Since we are a team, I often feel awkward thanking the volunteer staff members. I am profoundly grateful to be a part of this incredible team, and thankful to get to know these amazing individuals, but they don’t work for me. As we strive for our goals, no one of us more important than another, they are actually working for all of us. Their commitment, unfailing consistency and sage leadership allow this office to operate and since this office is the hub of our congregation, our health as an organization depends on it.

So, when you see Julie Smart, Ellie Murphy, Bernie Hall, Lynn Powers, Bill Parker, Jane Pauk, Sharon Hise, Charlie Lynch, or Ellen Bauman, take time to say thanks, shake a hand, give a hug, or bring them lunch because they are working for you.

I offer special thanks to Reverend John for being a great “boss” and an abiding champion, to Joel Schmitz for his unfailing patience and encouragement as I continue to learn, Ellie Murphy not only for all her hard work and beautiful results, but also for her experienced guidance and gentle humor, The Phantom for all his cheerful hard work, and to my spouse, Sandy, without whom I would not be enjoying this rewarding year with you.

Respectfully,
Jessie Shotwell

Social Action Committee
**2000 – 2001 Annual Report to the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix.**

The mission of the Social Action Committee is to foster congregational involvement in social justice issues by creating a balance of four aspects of social responsibility within the congregational community.

Social Education

Our monthly Social Action Luncheons inform the congregation on a wide variety of justice issues. Topics and speakers this year have included: Death Penalty - Laurie Vopel; Arizona Policy Forum - Senator Sue Grace; Circulo de Amigas - George Pauk & Larry Newhouse; Valley Interfaith Project - Paula Osterday; Borderlinks - Rick Ufford Chase; Earth Day / Solar Ovens - Sherry Cole; Head Start - Janet Wise & Darilyn Berg.

We observe the 4th year of "Service is Our Prayer" segment of the Sunday Service. Jim Lynch has succeeded in scheduling minutes that inform and witness to the congregation.

The Social Action table continues to be an important vehicle for social education and witness. Many SA members have contributed time to make this work but special thanks to Heather McLellan and Joan Fitz-Randolph who have been especially dedicated.

Social Service

Booker T. Washington (Sandra Lynch) Congregation efforts have been directed at helping BTW raise money it needs to rebuild its aging school. Church members sent almost \$12,000 (most as Welfare Reform Tax Credits) at year end, and provided hundreds of books in our annual "Books for Booker T" drive. Thanks to member Bob Leesley and the Valley Partnership, Booker T. Washington received \$75,000 in landscaping and other fix-up services. Fourteen congregation members attended three Tours of BTW in early May. Also in May, the Social Action Luncheon focused on Head Start Issues. Five UUCP members & friends now sit on the Board of Trustees of BTW: Eugene Grigsby, Sandra Lynch, George Pauk, Betty Saylor and Ed De La Fuente. In addition Sandra Lynch, George Pauk, Elaine & Everett Warner, Archie Walker, Jane Pauk & John Burciaga have participated in the BTW Development Committee.

Circulo de Amigas, Jinotega, Nicaragua (Heather McLellan & Barbara Voth) George Pauk and Larry Newhouse traveled to Jinotega in December to stay at Circulo and work on developing a computer classroom at the public school near the center of Jinotega and meet the workers and children of Circulo. Thanks to the generosity of the congregation we continue our sponsorship of Xiomara Sevilla as she enters post graduate

studies and begins teaching. We have also begun sponsorship of another young girl for her educational needs. The Congregation provided eyeglasses and hearing aids, and hundreds of fouride tablets, for use by the people of Jinotega. A new project seeks to provide 20 water barrels for the villagers at a cost of \$500.

New Day Center (Robbie Kern) Monthly meals on the first Sunday continue at New Day Center thanks to the labors of many UU members and organizers Robbie Kern & Heather McLellan. Heather has faithfully done the shopping each month. Robbie organized and produced a wonderful Carnival for the children of New Day.

ICM (Heather McLellan)

Collections continue of non-perishable food, personal items and gently used clothing. Christmas and Mother's Day collections were especially productive.

SOCIAL WITNESS

We witness participation in our programs: UU Day at the Legislature, Tax Credits for schools & Welfare Tax Credit, support of New Day, ICM and Booker T. Washington, Circulo de Amigas

ACTION FOR CHANGE (Jane Pauk)

Again this year, many UUCP members attended the 9th annual UU DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE on President's Day to witness, learn and advocate for social change. We thank Joan Fitz-Randolph for her persistence in keeping the congregation informed about Legislative issues and encouraging action.

COMMUNITY MINISTRY

Since the arrival of John Burciaga to the ministry of UUCP, the SA Committee has been encouraged to help organize & to explore the possibility of extending our Congregation's ministry into the community. After several meetings with interested members of the Congregation & SA Committee and consultation with Valley Interfaith Project a proposal was made to the Board of Director that we establish the development of Community Ministry as a priority of the Congregation and that with do so in a cooperative process with VIP. This process is now underway. It will be a Congregational Project.

The SA Committee is large & so many participate in so many ways that we can not begin to recognize them all in our report. They know and we know that they are very much appreciated.

Submitted by Social Action Co-chairs Jane Pauk and Lois Fisher

Denominational Affairs
2000 – 2001 Annual Report to the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix.

It has been a busy year for your members who have accepted responsibilities to the denomination outside our congregation. We had a full delegation at the General Assembly of the UUA in June, in Nashville, Tennessee. The event was thrilling, seeing so many UUs in one place, as well as the different groups; Christians, Humanists, Buddhists etc., in addition to the multiple social activist groups meeting together and celebrating their diversity in a climate of acceptance.

Our congregation members also work at Pacific Southwest District tasks. Susan Goldsmith and Jaynn Truran-Persidskis worked hard for the PSWD Leadership Development Committee Skill Conference in Tucson in April. Our congregation had a large delegation and all were pleased at the great offering of events.

Your ADR (Association District Representative) was happy to go to DeBenneville Pines, our PSWD Retreat Center in the San Bernadino mountains, two times in September, 2000. Over Labor Day weekend your ADR went to the Leadership Training School. A few weeks later your ADR went back to DeBenneville Pines for the ADR-President's meeting. Both experiences gave your ADR a chance to become acquainted with other UUs in similar positions from other congregations.

Each month during the year, on the third Wednesday evening, at our church, ADRs from the four churches in the valley meet to discuss the mutual concerns of the four churches. Our Metro Council worked together to promote UU Day at the Legislature in February and the Candidates Forum (Presentations by the UUA Candidates for President and Moderator) in March.

Sandra Lynch made a presentation to our congregation of "Guest at Your Table" boxes the major project each year of our UU Service Committee, our world wide organization to help needy people throughout the world.

Members continue to contribute to the "Chalice Lighters" program of the District (PSWD) to help at least two churches a year in the PSWD. The money is used in a wide variety of ways to help develop churches. Jim Lynch in our congregation has helped with Chalice Lighters.

Next year our congregation will have an adult education program which will cover the 8 study topics of social action identified by the UUA in October 2001. After our discussion groups in the fall and winter we will vote on which are the most important 5 issues.

Next year the Phoenix Metro UU Council hopes to identify a Social issue that our 4 churches can present to the community that can demonstrate UU principles in discussion and interaction in a public forum. We have tentatively identified a discussion of the feasibility of the "War on Drugs". Such a public forum would have Members of our congregations who are knowledgeable presenting and discussing how we might approach these issues from a religious perspective.

Next year we will bring together members of the congregation to form a denominational affairs committee. We look forward to participating in both our own congregation and the wider Unitarian-Universalist Community during the next year.

Gene Cherry

UNICARE
**2000 – 2001 Annual Report to the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix.**

The Unicare people have had a wonderful year, with twenty-six caregivers cheerfully volunteering to help members in need. Some of us can help only in small ways, such as making occasional phone calls or sending a card or note. Others have offered to organize memorial service receptions, provide meals for the homebound, and serve as substitutes for caregivers who are badly in need of an afternoon's respite.

One interesting new program we've created is designed to keep us in touch with those members who can't always get to Sunday services, and to make it possible for them to know our minister on a personal level. Our first such get-together was organized by **Marianne Holliday** at The Forum in Scottsdale, a retirement community where there are several UU's in residence. John joined a group of ten for lively conversation and a delightful luncheon, served in The Forum's private dining room. Response to this luncheon was so positive, we plan to have more such gatherings around the Valley.

Eventually we hope to have everyone in the congregation involved in caring for each other in the spirit of shared ministry. In the meantime, we're delighted to have these caring people ready to offer a friendly hand to those who need it: **Ellen Bauman, Sally Boyd, Billye & Kermit Butler, Gene Cherry, Sue Ellen Davis, Pauline Gay, Bernie Hall, Paula Hurn, Nancy Hochwald, Ann Jackel, Shirley & George Karas, Charlie Lynch, Cynthia McCrory, Joanne Michael, Ann Schwartz, Anita Silverthorn, Julie & Marshal Smart, Ruth Thistlethwaite, Sandra Thomson, Gail Walker, and Mary Wilber.**

We also appreciate the cooperation we've received from the many members who've made a point of keeping us informed about those in need and what we can do to help.

Bill Parker and Ellie Murphy, co-chairs

Art & Aesthetics Committee
**2000 – 2001 Annual Report to the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix.**

This committee provided art exhibits throughout the year (changing each month) for the sanctuary. We met a major challenge last fall with the traveling exhibit of work by mental patients which had to be uncrated, and then re-crated for shipment to California.

The committee also consulted with other church committees regarding aesthetic decisions. Members of the committee are: Tish Gauntt, Cynthia McCrory, Jay Alagia, Carol Cooper, Max Kaslo, Elaine Warner, Flip Higgins, Regina Nelms, Rosie Herman, Rita van Alkemade, Ken Croissant, Greg Weir and Efa Zakia Torkwase.

Unitarian Universalist Early Education Cooperative
2000 – 2001 Annual Report to the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix.

The UUEEC is the congregation's parent participation preschool, one of its most effective outreach activities. At a time when public understanding of what young children need is at a reactionary low, our preschool provides a model of what child-centered, respectful education, based on UU values, should be.

Here are just some of our activities and accomplishments of the past year.

During July and August, the preschool staff (along with some of their family members) completely stripped the classrooms of all items to prepare for remodeling. Through the donations of some preschool parents, we were able to remove the old carpet and ruined tile from rooms B and C and replace it with new flooring. We also ripped out the old flooring in rooms 15 and its extension restored the historic, original stained concrete floor. We repainted both classrooms, with the help of Carl Bailey, a parent, and purchased new area rugs for each Rooms B and C need air conditioning; until the air conditioning issues can be resolved the rooms need to be cooler. We installed four ceiling fans in B and C for the interim. The rooms were rearranged and ready for school. We were able to keep the costs for the capital upgrade to just over \$5,000.00 paid for by the preschool.

Along with that major capital improvement, the preschool donated the labor for painting the windows, doors, fascia and trim on the annex.

On the January work day, volunteer parents removed low hanging branches and dead wood from the trees in the play area between the two buildings to improve safety.

The preschool and its families participated in a number of outreach activities, such as the food drive for Interfaith Ministries by distributing grocery bags, collecting personnel care items for the homeless at Christmas, donating the few items left after rummage sale to a charity that helps homeless families set up new housing and gathering some clothing and toys for a family that is adopting two boys from Haiti.

We were very successful in our fundraising efforts this year. The fall rummage sale raised \$7,000.00 and the spring live and silent auction cleared about \$18,000.00. This has enabled us to meet our budget for the year. We had wonderful support from the congregation for both events.

The staff helped the Nursery coordinator organize the nursery supplies and equipment.

Many of the preschool parents helped with the passage of the City of Phoenix bond issue to fund the Phoenix Children's Museum, a project conceived and nurtured by congregation members, preschool teacher Doug van der Veen and wife Kim.

The preschool worked closely with the building and grounds committee to work out a solution to the problem of the drainage trench outside the annex. Many children and adults had fallen in it. The preschool worked with the contractor to come up with a design that would facilitate drainage and keep the sand from spreading all over the side walk. We will be working with the same contractor to correct some problems with the fence in the nursery playground and probably install a new gate.

The preschool once again was recognized by the National Association for the Education of Young Children for its outstanding program and accredited for another three years.

It has been a wonderful year, with full enrollment and lots of activities. We will be welcoming our first teacher who attended the preschool herself. Jane Gleason will be joining the staff to teach in the threes this fall. She attended the preschool in the late 60's; her first son completed the program a year ago and her second started in the twos this year. This highlights the fact that the congregation has steadfastly supported progressive and child centered programs for forty years, shaping generations of families. There are few that can claim such a commitment to our children.

This is my last report to the congregation as director. My family's involvement and schedules have changed drastically and I must find work that fits with my family's needs. I gave notice in March that I would not be returning in the fall. A search process is underway, with the interview team working closely with the oversight committee to find the best person to take over the position. I will orient and train the new director on the many facets of this job, to ensure a smooth transition.

So many people have been a support and help to me during my five years as director. I know I risk overlooking someone if I thank people individually. Yet I cannot leave without particularly thanking Bob Murphy, who has over the years been the most reliable, thorough and patient bookkeeper anyone could ask for, to the office staff for an respectful and supportive working relationship and to Jan Kaplan, who worked so hard on the restructuring of the preschool three years ago. And to Doug van der Veen, Josie Young, Judy Williams, Marilyn Mullins, Jane Gleason, Trudy O'Riley and Kim Mullins, teachers and substitutes, an uncountable number of "thank you's" for being the just the

best group of people with whom to work, friends, colleagues and fellow learners. It is the staff that makes this school so successful.

My sincere best wishes to the congregation and the preschool. I look forward to the preschool's half-century celebration.

Joni Bosh
Director

Daytimers
**2000 – 2001 Annual Report to the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix**

Interweave
**2000 – 2001 Annual Report to the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix**

The UUA describes Interweave as, "...a membership organization affiliated with the UUA, dedicate to the spiritual, political, and social well-being of UU's who are confronting oppression as lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender persons, and their heterosexual allies; and facilitates the celebration of the culture and lives of its members."

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix Interweave Chapter was formed in 1996 following the participation of our congregation in the "Welcoming Congregation" process. Since then, as most groups do, we have undergone cycles of activity and interest. Early 1997, was an exciting time in which membership and visibility grew. Then, in the spring of 1998, an active group facilitator stepped down and we experienced a decrease in activity and focus. The group began thriving again when Joel Schmitz took leadership during the 1999, 2000 church year, Then, when Joel stepped down to become the Finance Trustee to the Board of Directors, we again found ourselves in a waning period. This year, the UUCP Interweave chapter continues to falter due to lack of a leader. Not holding regular meetings or events, awareness of our group has decreased.

Earlier in the year, five of our members collaborated to offer a charge to Reverend John Burciaga upon his installation. This process prompted this core group to evaluate and communicate their vision for our Interweave chapter. In the final draft, we charged Reverend John with supporting us in our effort to keep an Interweave presence at UUCP, and to continue to remind us that as a Welcoming Congregation, we have a duty to continue our efforts both within the congregation and our society.

In addition, we met in March to discuss keeping our commitment to have a presence at the Phoenix Gay Pride Festival and our traditional supporting of the Choir's Cabaret event. In this meeting, we also discussed our Chapter's future, and decided to help revive interest by holding joint meetings with other Interweave chapters, and to facilitate this process by inviting other local chapters to share our Gay Pride booth. As a result of our efforts, both Gay Pride and Cabaret were great successes.

Currently the UUCP Interweave Chapter is in a "holding pattern" awaiting leadership. While we aren't in jeopardy of disbanding, sadly we won't thrive and grow again until a strong, consistent leader steps up. Meanwhile, we are cheered knowing our core members are tightly "interwoven" into the fabric of our congregational life, many in vital leadership roles.

Sierra Ancha Wilderness Unitarian Universalist Religious Association
(SAWUURA)
**2000 – 2001 Annual Report to the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix.**

SAWUURA is a place for religious reflection, and retreat. The 109-acre SAWUURA property is a rectangle of recovering wilderness in Seven Mile Canyon. Located, as named, approximately seven miles southwest of Young, Arizona, it has a rich history as a center for the complex interdependent web of life. Sparky Spring, the riparian complex, meadows, and canyon walls come together here at 5,400 to 5,600 foot elevations, now to be a protected nature and religious preserve. The property is completely surrounded by the Tonto National Forest.

SAWUURA is beautiful this May 2001. The moderate increase in rain this winter is evident. Cattle did invade the property for a while this winter. One of the gates was broken and we are focusing on repairs that will not allow this to occur again. Nevertheless, SAWUURA is a wonderful contrast to the Tonto National Forest around it. There are many more plants, such as bunch grass, on our side of the fence and they are recovering promptly from the cattle attack. When noting the grazing effects here, it is important to mention that the good spirit and influence of SAWUURA is already showing signs of spreading. The Tonto Forest Service staff informs us that they are interested in the possible restoration of the fencing exclusion of cattle from Sparky Spring in the canyon above our property. They and we are studying the issue. It is a microcosm of the relationships between public and private interests and the environment.

SAWUURA received an extension on the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant. There is a small amount of funds remaining in the account. The fence repair, wildlife friendly fence changes at trail sites, and the cattle guards are completed under the grant funding.

This winter the SAWUURA Board made an important decision after much study. We agreed that the property would be greatly benefited by reducing the risk of a devastating fire for the large old growth trees. We received consultation and site evaluation from experts in this plan. It seems that a fire will some day be a natural event in that valley and the unnatural abundance of "ladder fuel" under and reaching up into the large trees would likely result in a crown fire. Therefore we are starting a program, much like other environmental organizations, to bring the ladder brush down to the ground. This returns energy to the earth and also will serve to stop erosion on bare patches. Like other organizations, such as the Nature Conservancy, we are enlisting our campers in this process.

The old well project has been a success. Some of our hardy members dug out the original homestead well and water has now filled it to about 5 feet deep. The water, along with our windmill well, tested clean of coliform bacteria a few weeks ago. We will now have the capacity to measure the depth of the water table for year-to-year comparisons of the seasonal variation and restoration of Seven Mile Canyon.

The annual bird counts in SAUURA are proceeding and adding to our records of many years of observation.

Tadpoles are now in the pools in SAWUURA. A few of them are in a member's home, growing for the purpose of identification and then release at SAWUURA. We hope that they are the rare Chiriquaqua Leopard Frog, but they many turn out to be the Canyon Tree Frog as they were last year.

Mapping and identification of the flora of SAWUURA is proceeding, as is a history record project. A set of Photo Points is being done at standardized locations on and near the property.

Weekend camps have become traditions for May, Memorial Day, Labor Day and a fall Women's weekend. It is pleasing to see more members of other Arizona congregations participating. The programs generally have time for relaxation, hiking, talks and discussions about the biology there, brush clearing team-fun, and story telling by the fire. On Memorial Day weekends, great meals prepared by our chef and we have a service in the Sacred Grove on Sunday.

These many activities are the product of a vigorous SAWUURA Board and many SAWUURA members who are engaged in the web of life in this wonderful property.

Respectfully Submitted,
George L. Pauk MD
President, SAWUURA Board

May 18, 2001 Outdoor Group
2000 – 2001 Annual Report to the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix.

The Outdoor Group, in its tenth year, is primarily a day hiking group. Members also participate in service activities, provide greeters for Sunday morning services one day every two months, prepare and serve dinner at the New Day Center one day a year and meet usually twice a year (over food, of course) to develop a calendar of hikes for the next six months and to elect coordinators for the group. Hikes generally take place the second and fourth Saturdays of each month, as well as New Years Day. We usually have 10-15 hikers but have had as many as 29 (New Years Day).

This year we had 25 hikes and one planning potluck meeting. Hikes included the:

- Talliesin/Lost Dog Wash Trail,
- First Water to Canyon Lake Shuttle,
- Butcher Jones Trail at Saguaro Lake (including trash pickup),
- Esperero Trail in Tucson,
- Vulture Peak near Wickenburg,
- Deer Creek in the Mazatzal Wilderness,
- Bear and Doe Mountains in Sedona,
- Lime Kiln Trail in Cottonwood,
- Juniper Springs Trail #2 near Prescott,
- Pine Canyon Creek near Pine,
- Ford Canyon in the White Tank Mountains,
- Wet Beaver Creek east of Sedona,
- Kartchner Caves State Park (an overnight),
- Fossil Springs Trail near Strawberry,
- and the popular West Fork Trail in Sedona.

The group also participated again in the American Cancer Society's annual fundraiser, the Climb for the Cure in Phoenix South Mountain Park, raising \$800 in honor and memory of Hanna Parker.

Hike leaders during the year included Ron and Laura Rohlfing, Pauline Peverly, Elaine Knights, Sue Baird, Mary Lou Evans, Frank Ashton, Kathy Kruse and Gail Paul, Julie and Marshal Smart, Joyce Short, Bernie Hall and Penney Hill, George and Shirley Karas, Gene Rowley, Melinda Tylee, and Bill Parker.

A new member of the group, Sue Glassman started a new photo album of hike activities prompting Gene Rowley to bring out an album from the first year of the group. Sue also developed a roster of group members and with Sue Baird's help published a printed list with addresses, phone numbers, and E-mail addresses. Thirty names are currently listed with people being added as the congregation grows.

George Karas and Marshal Smart served as co-chairs of the group and will continue in that capacity for the next year.

Submitted by:

George Karas and Marshal Smart, Co-Chairs

DAYTIMERS
2000 – 2001 Annual Report to the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix

The Daytimers program was created for members of all ages who are free to get together for lunch on the **first Thursday of every month**. There are no officers, no bylaws, no minutes, and *no potluck dishes* – just stimulating conversation with 20-25 open-minded people, an easy brownbag lunch, and occasionally a program or speaker of special interest to the group. Rev. John almost always joins us and keeps everyone up to date on what's going on in the congregation.

Just this spring we introduced a new program idea, asking each person to bring to the next meeting something they'd read or heard on TV that upset them, aroused their righteous anger, or made them laugh. The results were both entertaining and enlightening, so no doubt there'll be an encore next fall.

Daytimers is clearly for people who are intellectually alert and need a place to share their ideas with others. Newcomers are especially welcome. Remember: You have to stop and eat lunch somewhere, so why not slip it into a bag, grab a napkin, and head for the church? Drinks are on the house!

Ellie Murphy (for Kermit & Billye Butler, facilitators)