

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix

Annual Report to the Congregation July 2004 – June 2005

SCOPE

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix Annual Report is:

- I. 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.

- II. A compendium of the interests, activities and events in the life of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix over the last congregational year, published at the end of June 2005.

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* Indicates the report was not available when this was published
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***Board of Trustees
2005 Annual Report to the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix***

2004-2005 Board of Trustees

Ellie Anderla, President

Joan Roberts, Vice President/Secretary

Jean Rosenberg, Treasurer

Ginna Hoff, Jr. Finance Trustee (resigned May, 2005)

Buildings & Grounds Trustees, Jeff Metcalf & Tim Tilton

Membership Program Trustees, Jan Wise & Ellen Bauman (resigned,
replaced by Terry Simmons)

Adult Programs Trustees, Greg Holmberg (resigned) & Dick Gray

Religious Education Trustees, Gary Ezzell & Jaynn Truran

Youth Representative to the Board, Geoffrey Brookshire

The Board of Trustees met seventeen times during this program year. We met once a month from July 2004 to June 2005 except for August 2004 when we had a full day retreat as well as a regular meeting and May, 2005, when we met five times. Each month's meeting began with check in, chalice lighting and a reading. The agenda and minutes were addressed and approved. The Minister and the DRE presented reports as did the trustees. Usually there were reports from others as well. In July, Brenda Hoskins reported on our Community Ministry and Gene Cherry reported on the canvass. Nominating Committee members and new committee chairs were approved. August brought a report from Don Weir outlining the process for the Combined Canvass Campaign. In September, there was a report from the Universal Access Committee. Tom Brookshire, chair of the Committee on Ministry, attended in October and discussed the upcoming surveys on the health of our congregation's ministry and the review of the ministry of our called minister. In December, Charlie Lynch introduced Jan Montana, who then gave a report on the Plaza Comunitaria. There were two special reports in February. Rick Wambach presented the process the

Nominating Committee would use to find people interested in serving on the Board or on committees. Tom Brookshire presented the summary of the UUCP survey. In April, Penny Butler and Juanita Guidry Copeland spoke about the Birmingham Project and Don Weir reported on the Combined Canvass Campaign. Michele Rutin spoke about the UUEEC and Dale Fisher presented the proposed Mission Statement and Charter for the Construction Committee at the May 16th meeting. May 23rd brought three guests. PSWD District Executive, Ken Brown, presented information about the search process for an Interim Minister. Jack Putta and Jeff Sadow presented concerns about budget concerns for Kids' Kamp. Doug Sydnor spoke about several issues concerning construction. In June, Don Weir reported the results of the Combined Canvass. All were extremely pleased that our operating budget goal had been met. Dale Fisher and Brenda Hoskins reported on the construction committee progress.

At every meeting a great deal of time was spent discussing money matters. For a number of reasons, it had not been evident that our budget and accounting process was not working properly. Once this was apparent, much work was done to get the accounting in order. The congregation has been presented with this issue at our congregational meetings. Several things have been put in place to prevent this from happening again. A new accounting system will be used. A professional bookkeeper will be hired. A finance committee will be formed. It is expected that these changes will keep our finances in good order.

Board meetings are open and times are listed on the calendar. Minutes are available and are kept in the legacy notebook in Office 2.

John Burciaga
Called Leader of Ministry
2004 – 2005 Annual Report to the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix

This is the year that occasions our parting. It matters little that, at the inception of this Settlement, I had projected three to five years as my expected tenure; for some of you it has been too brief a time, and for me it is wrenching to bring it to a close. It also is a loss for me, in that it also concludes my settled career even as it begins the last stage of my professional endeavors and the prospect of Interim ministry until it is best to end my lifelong calling.

My decision to leave first was made during the past winter's holidays, and ensuing months quietly tested its wisdom. Announcement was delayed a bit while we completed combined campaigns of support that included capital monies to improve our sacred space. You attracted a very capable Interim of your own, which is no surprise: after all, this is a vital, energetic congregation with continuing, attractive prospects for the future.

Besides the capital campaign that brought a healthy amount to your Accessibility goals, support of the program budget for the coming year exceeded its goal--an important sign that may signal the end of the financial trauma that began with the crash of the "dot.com" bubble and the events of September 11, 2001. These gave pause to usual giving patterns, and while the world still feels tenuous, we know we cannot stop living--nor can our precious congregation.

I feel that so much was accomplished the past year. Our Justice ministry continued with programs already far-flung but strengthened along the way. This included significant success with our *Plaza Comunitaria*, which gave so much hope and opportunity to its first students and indications of newer ones to come, as well as expectations to expand our efforts off-site into public and community education locations. The UUA Funding Panel has said it will extend our current gift and consider future awards in the year to come. We should match their monetary confidence in our efforts with our own enthusiastic encouragement.

Shared Ministry at UUCP both strengthened and firmed in 2004-05. It is clear now that all feel that whatever their gifts and contributions, theirs is a ministry to the total mission of the congregation. I leave you with an outstanding hired staff who are individually and collectively dedicated to our purpose, and I fully expect you to go on cherishing their presence and skills, and providing them with all resources needed to make reality of your combined visions.

As I bid you farewell, it is not without great fondness for you as a congregation or without expectation that your future will be greater than the past. As such enfolds, I will be silently and prayerfully thankful that, for a time, I was part of the journey of Unitarian Universalism in the enchanting Valley of the Sun.

Respectfully and affectionately,

John Burciaga

***Sunday Services Committee
2004 – 2005 Annual Report to the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix***

The Sunday Services Committee arranged for the summer and 'fifth Sunday' services. The bulk of our speakers were members and friends of the congregation. We hosted four outside speakers. Two of them are members of the Valley UU congregation in Chandler, as a part of our new 'lay speaker exchange' program. On the sending end of the exchange, UUCP sent Gil Venable to speak at Valley UU, and Denise McConnell will speak there in summer, 2005. Preliminary conversations have occurred with other Arizona UU congregations about additional speaker exchanges.

John Johnson and Terry Simmons joined the committee. Dick Gray, Sandy Weir, and Heather McLellan remained on the committee. Heather will retire from the committee at the end of summer, 2005 after eight years of service. Heather was chair from 2001 through 2004.

The 2004-05 summer series and 'fifth Sunday' services included the following speakers, topics, and service leaders:

Date	Speaker	Service Leader	Topic
June 20	Regina Blakely	Gary Ezzell	A Celebration of Fathers
June 27	Jennifer Morse	Fred Rozum	Arizona Health Insurance
July 4	Gary Bevirt	Heather McLellan	Memoirs of the Civil War
July 11	Jesse Hise	Pat Shannon	Poetry
July 18	Gil Venable	Sandy Weir	Condemned to the Quest (Gil's UU Family stories)
July 25	Jay Alagia	Linda Chamberlain	Gandhi
Aug 1	Terry Simmons	Susan Goldsmith	Interdependent Web
Aug 8	Jaynn Truran (& YACM)	Kim St. Clair	Young Adult Campus Ministry program
Aug 15	Libby Walker, and Rita van Alkemade	Libby Walker, and Rita van Alkemade	Creativity
Aug 22	John Hinton	Heather McLellan	Dances of Universal Peace
Aug 29	Mary Sojourner	Kathy Kruse	Occupying Less, Living More
Sept 5	Dick Gray and GA attendees	Libby Walker	UUA General Assembly
Oct 31	Gil Venable	Sandy Weir	Freedom And The Price Of War (Gil's UU Family stories, part 2)
Jan 23	Rebecca Riggs	Dick Gray	A Theology of Hope
May 29	Mary Tucker	Sandy Weir	Bring You Home To Me (Memorial Day)

Connie Clemons continued to be present as a musician on most of the above Sundays and to arrange for the music on her rare absent Sundays. Her talents and coordination are much appreciated. Karin Metcalf provides excellent administrative assistance, Carey Crabbs, fine Sunday Service publicity assistance, and Ellie Murphy, capable Order of Service support.

The Sunday Services Committee would like to grow in numbers to 'seven to nine,' the range called for in our charter. We welcome any congregation member to attend a meeting to explore becoming a committee member.

Sunday Services Committee members: Dick Gray, Heather McLellan, Terry Simmons, John Johnson, and Sandy Weir, Chair

***Music Director
2004 – 2005 Annual Report to the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix***

The 2004-2005 church year has been especially busy for the music department at the UUCP. The Congregation Choir now has 27 members who rehearse consistently every Wednesday and provide choral anthems for 2 to 3 Sundays each month. Special services this year have included the Holiday season operetta, "Christmas is Canceled" by our own member, composer and pianist, Ed Grobe; Mass in G by Franz Schubert in the spring with the Valley UU choir, complete with orchestra; an April performance with the Scottsdale Master Chorale which included movements from the Rutter Requiem; and our annual fundraiser, Cabaret.

Soloists from our choir and other church musicians provide special music for the Sundays when the choir does not sing. This is most significant in the summer, when the Sunday Services Committee is responsible for the services.

The contributions of our pianist, Ed Grobe is significant in many ways. He accompanies our choir, attending all Wednesday evening rehearsals and Sundays when the choir sings. He has also contributed greatly on Sunday mornings by providing service music when our music director/organist has scheduled days off. We also have other fine pianists who substitute with service music: Jerry Whalin and Susun Morris.

We are also fortunate to have another composer/pianist/clarinetist in our choir: Jerry Whalin. Our Congregation Choir has performed his compositions on Sunday mornings and for special services.

New this year is "Morning Song." Ten minutes before the Sunday morning Services congregants gather around the piano and sing their favorite hymns. On occasion, instrumentalists have joined in the music making. The singers choose the hymns and have introduced sometimes less familiar hymns to the group. People have commented that they have enjoyed singing and hearing the beautiful music upon entering the sanctuary for services.

In September at least one family attended Family Choir rehearsals on Wednesday evenings. This small but enthusiastic group of singers performed in September in a Sunday Service.

This year our Coming of Age class provided the music for their graduation service. The YRUU provided the music for the service which they led. Instrumentalists in our congregation: youth, COA members and adults have contributed music for Children's Church services and for Sunday Services in the Sanctuary. The contribution of our own instrumentalists and especially of our youth has become greater each year and more vital to our Sunday Services.

In December 2004 the music committee sponsored the Hymn Sing Sunday Service on December 26th. Members of the music committee acted as service leader and organized the singing of your favorite hymns.

As music director, I organize and act as a consultant for all music that occurs in Sunday morning services and for special services. My tasks include research, purchase of new music, programming, education on copyright laws and rehearsal music. Music requests are directed to me by members of the Sunday Service Committee, the minister and congregants. When there are not choral arrangements of music which has been requested, I create arrangements for the choir to sing.

Probably the most time consuming work which I do not do is thankfully accomplished by Ruth Thistlethwaite, our choir librarian. Her managing of our music library makes our choir music possible on Sunday mornings. Thank-you, Ruth!

Our music committee meetings are held the first Sunday of each month when the choir sings. Many thanks to Richard Jahrmarkt, leaving the chair after serving for 3 years. And thanks in advance to Paula Adkins our incoming chair. And thanks to the other members of our music committee, who plan and assume responsibility for much. It is a joy to work with each one of them.

The summer of 2004 was my 5th UU Musician's Network Conference. Every year I attend for 5 days and learn from other UU's and world famous music clinicians. This conference is a valuable learning workshop of classes, performances, discussions and tangible resources impacting the music you hear every Sunday in services.

Respectfully submitted,
Constance Clemons, Music Director

***Music Committee
2004 – 2005 Annual Report to the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix***

A Music Committee Message from Radio UUCP 402.7 on your dial.

We rejoin our Music Committee as they muse over another successfully completed musical year...

Choir director Connie Clemons used her multiple musical talents and experience to lead the choir to a banner year. She also saves the congregation several hundred dollars on guest musicians. Choir members and others also help out.

The Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network showed its influence with the choir singing two compositions by Esaye Barnwell. Barnwell was the artist in residence at last year's UUMN Convention in Arlington, Virginia. Jerry Whalin also represented the choir at the convention in August.

March seems to be the preferred month for Cabaret. This year beach music was the theme. The total take was over \$1000, with the choir and congregation splitting the loot.

At Christmas the choir performed "Christmas is Canceled," an operetta written by congregation member, Ed Grobe.

What will happen in the next exciting episode of the madcap Music Committee?

Will the Music Committee become the totally coolest committee in all of UUdom?

Will the choir continue to grow in terms of numbers, sound and spirit?

Will the choir have a fund raiser to purchase hymnal supplements?

Will George Bush accept our invitation as a "natural" to play the Lion, the Tin Man and the Scarecrow in a coming production of Cabaret?

Signing Off,
Richard Jahrmarkt, Chair

**Adult Religious Education
2004-2005 Annual Report to the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix**

Many thanks to the hard-working committee members for bringing such a rich and diverse curriculum to our Adult RE program, and to the class facilitators without whom we would have no class offerings! The UUCP can be proud of developing a true lifespan Religious Education Ministry.

ARE Class Facilitators:

A Catechism for UU's - Linda Lu Burciaga

Faithful Choices: An Adult Program in Clinical Ethics & Religious Values – Gary Ezzell & Diana Saylor

Building Your Own Theology, Part I – Lois Leader

Building Your Own Theology, Part II - Terry Simmons

Parents as Social Justice Educators – Amy Godfrey

Religious Liberals Read the Bible – Gene Cherry

Emerson As Spiritual Guide - Roy Miller

Hinduism & Buddhism Workshop, Advanced Hinduism: Study of Bhagavad-Gita; Meditation for Beginners & Intermediate – Jay Alagia

Many Voices, Indeed!

In addition to our exceptional offerings of ongoing Adult Religious Education courses, we hosted *The Jesus Seminar on the Road*, which brought 100 visitors to the UUCP for a weekend of intellectual and spiritual workshops and conversation. The "Moral Values, Many Voices" lecture series examined critical political issues that also have religious implications, such as right to die laws, being a progressive political advocate, the work of the ACLU in Arizona legislature regarding religious issues, and prison reform (yes, it does have a religious component to it!).

Other accomplishments this year included co-hosting the Beatnik Coffeehouse Fab Friday (with YACM and YRUU) and the Empty Bowls Fab Friday (with the CRE committee), and a fun-filled intergenerational trip to the Botanical Gardens Butterfly Pavilion (thanks, Sue Kennedy)!

The Book Table Was A Hub of Activity . . .

The ARE Book Table will continue to grow in importance and diversity. Every month, Harriet Williams and other committee members renew our selection at a discount book store, and refresh our supplies from UUA. We invite suggestions or requests from congregation members. Our inventory choices are guided by UU principles and traditions and include a wide array of topics and titles.

In 2005, the Book Table became a hub for visitor activity when we began stocking UU literature and back issues of UU World. We have begun to provide literature for a few selected outside organizations, such as the ACLU. The book table also has become a reference spot for the Religious Education classes, where the schedules are available along with books for classes and descriptions of courses to come.

The Book Table is open during social hour every Sunday.

YACM Completes its First Year on a High Note!

The Young Adult Campus ministry group culminated its first year with an impressive service on May 15 which brought in close to \$600 in a special collection. The proceeds from the special collection will be used for public relations materials to be distributed at local community college and university campuses. The group also hosted a conference for the Pacific Southwest District YACM, which was attended by 40 participants. YACM was socially active by raising over \$300 and 5000 diapers for the Arizona Diaper Bank. On the fun side, all have enjoyed social gatherings at various eateries, bowling alleys and homes as we continue to bond and provide a much needed support network for the 18-35 set.

Gary Ezzell
Chair

***Children's Religious Education Committee
2004-2005 Annual Report to the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix***

We have a lot to be proud of, including formulating a vision of the Children's Religious Education committee formed around five pillars:

Community Building

Ritual

Education

Worship

Service

Or CREWS

Thus, we are reporting our successes regarding each pillar and looking forward to continuing the momentum created by our vision.

Community Building

- Awesome enrollments in the children's program, over 100 kids were registered this year.
- The cooperative program involved 28 teachers, ten mentors for COA, 5 volunteers for the Children's worship services, 18 volunteers for special events (Family Fun Days, Ice Cream Sunday, Empty Bowls, UU Pals, etc.)
- UU Pals replaced "Secret Pals" allowing friendships to form from Day One between the adult and child pals.
- Horizons submissions were revamped and incorporated increased collaboration with Children's RE Committee members, Sunday school and Coming of Age teachers, and YRUU advisor's and youth.
- The children wrote letters to members of our sister church in Transylvania as they began to learn about the larger UU community.
- More UUCP Junior High and Elementary age kids at Camp de Benneville than ever before.
- We had a fantastic presence at District Assembly in Prescott. 34 UUCP members there, one-half were under 21 years old.

Ritual

The committee created a Special Activity checklist book to help our adult volunteers more easily implement the numerous events that have become annual rituals for our children. This resource provided volunteers with an outline of past experiences with our special activities, such as Ice Cream Sunday and the Spring Egg Hunt, and provided a tool to communicate updates for future volunteers.

The monthly Chalice Choice Newsletter was born! Thank you Wendy Metcalf and Tia Stokes.

Education

- Curriculum workshop hosted at UUCP
- The committee focused on long term planning by reviewing curriculum and brainstorming ways to make it easier for our teachers to plan their lessons.
- Completed a curriculum matrix, with a ten year plan for the children's program outlined.
- Arizona Cluster Our Whole Lives conference hosted at UUCP

Worship

The Children's Worship services were restructured to be more interactive and engaging. We maintained the focus on one principle for each Children's Worship and continued our rituals of joys and sorrows and the children's covenant.

Service

- We had more parent volunteers than ever! The cooperative children's program involved 28 teachers, 10 mentors for COA, 5 volunteers for the Children's worship services, 18 volunteers for special events (Family Fun Days, Ice Cream Sunday, Empty Bowls, UU Pals, etc.)
- Empty bowls and Equity meals Sundays were dedicated to helping others, through sale of soup in "empty bowls" which raised over \$300 for the New Day Center
- Over \$100 raised for UNICEF Pumpkin Sunday

Thanks to the leadership of the Children's Religious Education Committee for making this year a truly transformational one:

Mary Dokes, Diana Saylor, Cathy Maxwell, Wendy Metcalf and Laura Venzor

Respectfully submitted,

Kim St. Clair

Director of Lifespan Religious Education

***Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU)
2004 – 2005 Annual Report to the
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10 seniors bridged into the adult UUCP community

- Three UUCP YRUU members were on the leadership team at PSWD
- Two were Youth Deans at Camp de Benneville
- One was a Chaplin at Camp de Benneville
- Our Whole Lives (OWL) for Sr. High. A sexuality course taught by specially trained OWL instructors providing in depth exploration about sexuality that helps them make informed choices now and in the future.

***Coming of Age (COA)
2004 – 2005 Annual Report to the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix***

- Ten 7th and 8th graders successfully completed the Coming of Age program.
- This involves not only a big commitment from the kids; this program involved a big commitment from the fantastic congregation members who mentored them, and the COA committee. Our thanks to all of you!
- Collectively these kids:
- interviewed approximately 60 congregation members, including John Burciaga, earned 120 internal (for the congregation) service hours, earned 120 external hours through an amazing variety of activities individually passed a Panel Review
- Shared their perspectives about what UUism means to them during their graduation service.

***Our Whole Lives (OWL)
2004 – 2005 Annual Report to the
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For the 1st and 2nd grades

→ Taught by specially trained OWL instructors, the children learned about their own bodies, birth, and babies.

**Early Education Cooperative
2004-2005 Annual Report to the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix**

The EEC is the Congregation's parent-participation preschool, which operates Monday through Friday. Founded in 1961, the preschool serves forty seven children ages two, three and four. It is licensed by the State of Arizona Department of Health and Safety and also accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. The preschool curriculum is based on UU principles and provides a model of child-centered, respectful, developmentally appropriate education.

Budget

Although actual income and expense figures are not yet available, the preschool has every reason to believe we were within our budget. When the congregation went to essential spending only, so did the preschool. We did spend some funds from the Discretionary Fund to remove and replace the shade tree on the sand playground due to safety concerns. Discretionary Funds were also used, with approval from the EEC Committee, for myself, Doug van der Veen and Josie Young to attend the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) conference in November and Northwest Teacher's Camp in June.

Fundraising

One very successful fundraiser was held this year, the Wild West Roundup & Auction in November. Over \$15,000 was netted, exceeding the budget goals. It was very rewarding to have many congregation members support this function.

Highlights of the school and each class include:

- I. All staff members have college degrees (some Masters+) and experience in early childhood education- combined for over 50 years of experience in all!
- II. Staff members averaged 24 hours of continuing education during the school year, well exceeding the state requirement of 12
- III. The preschool supported Congregation functions by teaching preschool in the Sunday program, sponsoring and serving at a Coffee Hour, donating to and working at the Rummage Sale, attending Board Meetings and Sunday Services
- IV. Pony rides on the patio for the Three's & Four's classes, provided by a parent
- V. Four's field trips to several museums and the Phoenix Firefighters Museum
- VI. Pumpkin hunts at the Ghost Eye Tree
- VII. Holiday caroling parade to UUCP staff offices
- VIII. Friday Friends visit to the DVLC Valentine Carnival
- IX. New siblings for many of our students
- X. Wonderful photos of the students at play were taken and shared by Three's Teacher Josie Young
- XI. Congregation relations and participation in EEC functions were at a record high

- XII. Hiring of Geralyn Williams, first as a Friday Friends Teacher then as the Four's Assistant Teacher when Val Bailey moved to the Two's class and Friday Friends.
- XIII. Geralyn Williams also taught art at UU Kids Kamp.
- XIV. A record number of father's worked in the cooperative on co-op days
- XV. The preschool and UUCP sponsored a Blood Drive for United Blood Services in April. Another is scheduled for October.
- XVI. In response to safety concerns, the preschool and Desert View Learning Center worked together to add planters to the parking lot to protect people from tripping over the curbs.

Respectfully submitted,
Michele Rutin
Director, Early Education Co-op

Membership Program Trustees
2004 – 2005 Annual Report to the
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Membership Activities

The 2004-05 program year at UUCP was especially active in the membership area. As recommended by Consultant Charles Gaines, a Membership Committee had been established during 2003-04, but the development and implementation of its plans occurred during the current year. New procedures include assignment of "guides" to meet visitors on Sunday mornings near the newcomer greeter table and accompany them into the sanctuary. Guides welcome visitors and show them around, answer questions and invite them to attend the coffee hour that typically follows the service.

The Membership Committee also initiated a Mentoring Program for new members. Whenever possible, an existing member is matched with each new member or couple who joins UUCP. The purpose is to help new members get acquainted, find activities that interest them and become integrated into the life of the congregation.

Committee members also conducted a survey of those who recently joined to find out how membership initiatives are working and provide opportunities for newer members to make suggestions for improvement of welcoming practices.

The Membership Committee

Betty Sayler, Chair

Members: Sharon & Jesse Hise, Libby Walker, Ellie Murphy and John Johnson

New UU Classes

Three New UU Classes were held during 2004-05 in September, January and May. Facilitators included Terry Simmons, Rod Fensom, Julie Wambach and Kay Veldman. Many other members made brief presentations. For the first time, pledging was openly discussed in the classes and pledge cards were distributed. Ellie Murphy made a major contribution to the class by rewriting the booklet about Unitarian Universalism, *The New UU*, which is given to class participants. The booklet is now much more informative and user friendly. As in past years, Janice Brunson graciously opened her lovely hillside home for the New UU Potluck dinner.

Results

Forty-four (44) new adult members were welcomed in 2004-05 and ten (10) young people from the Coming-of-Age class also signed the book. Membership results exceeded goals articulated in UUCP's Strategic Plan.

New Members this reporting year

Paula Adkins
Todd and Nancy Cruse
Laura Geisler & Saul Venzor
Cheryl and Thomas Tobin
Susan Kraght
Barbara Holt
Kay Veldman
Angela Spiars
Kaye Roberts
Warren Salinger
Marcy Kiefer and Karl Haviland
Mary Wardlaw
M. Adelaida Restropo
Roberto Hayes
Christine and Rick Enright
Chris and Annie Faltis
Lillian Habeich
Patricia Jo Angelini
John Kusmit
Amy Lively
Michelle Moyer
Robert Back
Lisa Rosenfeld
Carolyn Allenby
Charlotte and Smoot Carl-Mitchell
Christopher Fowler
Carolyn and Otis Odell
Robert Hanson
Tammy and Alan Rhodes
Alan Levine and Natalie Summit
Nombi Hammond
Krista Thieme
Laurel & Miles Maestas

Submitted by Janet Wise, Senior Membership Trustee

Publicity Committee
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Publicity was active during 2004-05. It consisted primarily of press releases issued to diverse media throughout the Valley. Unfortunately, due to budget constraints, paid advertising was virtually non-existent.

Advertising

Publicity once again requested a budget of \$3,500 for 2004-05. A \$2,500 budget was approved and included:

- I. Advertising in the *East Valley Tribune* twice a month, with a third ad in months that had 5 Sundays. Continued advertising in the PFLAG monthly newsletter.
- II. The *Scottsdale Church Directory* publication.
- III. Money to advertise our ARE and Music programs.

Unfortunately, the budget crisis placed a moratorium on these plans. In reality, the only advertising that was done was as follows:

- 1) A 1/4 page ad was run in the PFLAG monthly newsletter from June 2004 through June 2005 at a cost of \$120.00. However, this was a carry over from the previous budget year.
- 2) An ad ran in the Glendale Community College newspaper to promote the *Jesus Seminar* at a cost of approximately \$75.00.
- 3) The *Scottsdale Church Directory* included our listing, but no ad this year, at a cost of approximately \$50.00.

As is typical there were requests from other areas of the congregation for advertising, but unfortunately the budget did not permit this.

Press Releases

Press releases were issued for any UUCP activity other than normal Sunday services. Releases are distributed to, but not limited to, the list below. Whether a press release is used is based on the publication's interest in the story, space and relevance to the audience it serves. There is no cost to UUCP for this.

- ✓ *Arizona Republic (including the special local sections)*
- ✓ *Tribune*
- ✓ *The New Times*
- ✓ *Paradise Valley Independent*
- ✓ *Northeast Phoenix Independent*

- ✓ *Scottsdale Views*
- ✓ *The Rep*
- ✓ *Get Out*
- ✓ *AzFCT* (Arizona Foundation for Contemporary Theology)
- ✓ *Echo Magazine*
- ✓ *PFLAG Phoenix*
- ✓ Radio: KBAQ, KDKB, KJZZ, KNIX/KYOT/KMXP/Kez, KTAR

The *Paradise Valley Independent* continued to be the strongest supporter. The paper publishes many of our lecture series, ARE classes and other events happening at UUCP.

Press releases were used by the local media for the *Jesus Seminar*, the *Moral Values/Many Voices: Progressive Religion in the Public Arena* lecture series, rummage sale, Jennifer Harbury STOP lecture, the Gini Courter visit and last year's summer Sunday services.

Since the media is far ranging throughout the Valley and it is difficult to receive all of the publications, Publicity asks that when mention of UUCP is made that members clip the page and forward to the Publicity Chair (Publicity Box in Office 2). Be sure to indicate in what publication or station the notice appeared and when.

Website

The website includes our monthly newsletters, calendar of events, special events, sermon topics and much more for both the new visitor and long standing member. Publicity welcomes comments about the newly designed site.

Yellow Pages

While not under the purview of Publicity (this is a phone expense and falls under Utilities), Publicity continues to review our listing. Last year a guest commented that our address was *not* listed. With the new publication, the UUCP address is included in both the Scottsdale Yellow Pages and the Phoenix Yellow Pages. This addition to both editions was at no additional charge.

Looking Forward

The 2005-06 budget is \$1,000. Advertising in the *Tribune* on an ongoing basis will not be possible on this budget. Press releases will continue to be the means of reaching the larger community. Both the website and the Yellow Pages are often mentioned by guests as the source for finding UUCP. As such, the website will be kept current to provide up to date information about the congregation. Likewise, Publicity will explore the cost to add our website to our listing.

Lastly, Publicity will work with the Board to determine how we can more effectively attract new members and work toward an increase in the 06-07 budget to allow for additional advertising opportunities for UUCP.

The Publicity Committee welcomes all members' comments and suggestions.

Respectfully submitted,

Carey A. Crabbs
Publicity Chair

Unicare
2004 – 2005 Annual Report to the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix

This year UniCare took on some extra duties as an active part of the newly-formed Membership Ministry. One of our new projects was sending notes or making phone calls to members who've been missing for awhile. Whenever people haven't been seen at Sunday services for some time, we ask that their names be written on a piece of paper and dropped in the "Where Are They Now?" box at the Social Action table so UniCare volunteers can contact them. (It was very encouraging to bring back a longtime member with our very first card!)

In addition to this new project, of course, UniCaregivers have written dozens of get-well notes, made hundreds of phone calls, and visited shut-ins and most of the Valley's hospitals. We also like to share in the joys of member's lives, and send out congratulatory cards when we hear of someone's accomplishment or happy news. It's an imperfect system, and we're never sure we're reaching everyone, but our e-mail network does keep us all connected. In one sense, everyone in the congregation is a part of UniCare, because we often call on close friends of those in need, even if they're not on our list.

We've been less successful in our efforts to persuade members to fill out personal information sheets so the Minister and/or Administrator know who to call in cases of emergency. This is especially important for members who live alone or when members are out of town and become ill or hospitalized. We plan to include our special forms in a future newsletter, as we did before, in the hope that more than the handful we now have will be returned!

Our UniCare base is growing all the time as new UUCP members ask to be included on our e-mail list. Caregivers are part of the system if they are willing to send one card, write one note, or make one phone call a year – that's all it takes! Wouldn't YOU like to join us?

Ellie Murphy, chair

**Arts & Aesthetics Committee
2004 – 2005 Annual Report to the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix**

The AAC met approximately every other month during the year.

The expanded the AAC role created to enhance participation in art by the UUCP membership has been very successful. The Show and Tell meetings of the artists at the same time as the committee meetings are scheduled has worked out well. Artists attending the Show and Tell also act as committee members and help in exhibit installation. A directory of member and friends artists has been continued.

AAC organized many successful exhibitions in the year. The 20% commission on the sale of paintings brought \$342.50 in revenue to the general fund. AAC did not have any expenses.

Meetings were attended by: Jay Alagia, Rita van Alkemade, Tish Gaunt, Denise Donato, Larry Thwing, Jan Peterson, Linda and Fred Chamberlain, Sharon Day, Jack and Don Fenily, Phyllis Lindsey, Jack Cummings, Jack Bazell, Nancy Bowen, Carol Rioux, Amy McCluer, Nicole Chadbourn, Sandy Farber, Tom Brookshire, Dale Fisher, Gary Ezzell, Sharon and Jesse Hise, Elaine Warner and Harriet Williams

Exhibitions:

September/October 2004	Sonoran Art League Artists
November/December 2004	UUCP Artists
January/February 2005	Frieda Kahlo by Dick Phillips' students & UU members
March	Norman Wilson Exhibit
April/May	The Maverick Quilters
June	No Exhibit – Art Camp
July/August	UUCP Archive Exhibit

Report submitted by,

Jay Alagia, Chair
Rita van Alkemade

***Social Action Committee
2004 – 2005 Annual Report to the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix***

Overriding the questionable quality of their leadership, the Social Action Committee plowed through another year, continuing and initiating a number of projects with varying success.

1. New Day Center Meal. On the first Sunday of each month volunteers from the congregation, under the able leadership of Denise and Patrick McConnell, Loretta Isaac and Heather McLellan, prepare and serve the evening meal for the residents of the New Day Center, a Methodist facility for homeless families in downtown Phoenix. Over the past ten years this has been a highly successful project thanks to the broad support from the congregation and the project's leadership. After many years of service Denise, Patrick and Loretta have retired this year. Their efforts on our behalf deserve our highest commendation. The project will continue under the able leadership of Heather McLellan and new recruit, Laurel Maestas.

2. Book Sale. Headed by Sharon Day and Danny Mele, the committee sponsored a book sale on Saturday and Sunday, January 22nd and 23rd. The large number of books were generously donated by members of the congregation and were a tribute to the intellectual level of their reading. The proceeds from the sale (\$600) were donated to the Honduras Birthing Project and the UU Service Committee. An interesting aside to this project that should be carefully noted by the SAC is that Co-chair Danny Mele has never shown his face in church since the sale. Something didn't work for him although he worked very hard to make the sale a success. He was a good man and we miss him. The books remaining after the sale were passed on to the church rummage sale.

3. Fair Trade. The SAC has supported the sale of Fair Trade Coffee and Chocolate to the congregation after the service most Sundays. This project was initiated by then Co-chair Karin Metcalf last year and has been successful enough that we now have several continuing customers. Joyce Rozum is our leader assisted by Jane Pauk, Heather McLellan and Sarah Carlson. We have tried to keep the price we sell the items for at very close to what the materials cost us, our purpose being to aid the producers.

4. Committee Patterns. The SAC meets to conduct its business on the second Sunday of the month. The Social Action Luncheons are conducted on the third Sunday of the months during the Fall, Winter and Spring in the Johnson Room. The purpose of the luncheon is to allow congregation member to interact with a variety of speakers who represent the social issues of the day.

October--Chad Campbell, Legislative Chair of the Sierra Club - ballot propositions.

November--Eddie Sisson, Consultant with Research Advisory Services discussing the implications of the election results.

January--Libby Walker discussing the Aster Yohanis Project and the UUSC; Tony Banegas, the Honduras Birthing Project.

February--Assistant Arizona Attorney General Gail Thackery discussing the problems of identity theft.

March--Dr. George Pauk discussing the Circulo De Amigas School and other Nicaragua Projects.

April--Warren Salinger discussing efforts of the UU Service Committee.

5. Central America. The SAC is fortunate to have two members who have intimate knowledge of the needs and frequently visit two Central American countries.

Honduras--Tony Banegas became aware of the alarmingly high mortality rate among expectant mothers and their babies. Over the past several years he has raised funds and materials from our congregation as well as from various service clubs in the valley. He has personally gone to Honduras to oversee the erection of a birthing clinic where mothers can go when their babies are due and receive medical care and reside in a secure environment. Tony has been honored for his efforts by his community in Honduras and continues to develop and support the project.

Nicaragua--Dr. George Pauk has been involved in the support of Circulo de Amigas School Project for the past several years. The school is located in the mountains and provides for the education of girls. Support is provided by adopting a girl at a cost of \$518 per year. Through the SAC, the congregation has adopted two girls. Several other congregation members have individually adopted girls. Through the visits George and Jane have made to the country they became aware of the acute health needs and have become involved in raising support from the congregation to assist. As a retired physician he is able to influence the directing of other health resources to the country from organizations like Doctors for Global Health.

6. Aster Yohanis Project. Libby Walker has devoted her exceptional talents to keeping before our congregation the frightening situation faced by congregation member Aster Yohanis. She and her husband have been jailed in their native Eritrea for supporting efforts to end the dictatorship and move the country toward democratic institutions. Libby has involved the entire congregation in numerous letter writing efforts directed to members of our government to encourage them to bring pressure to have the couple released and has raised money to support the couples children. She has also been active in encouraging Amnesty International to use their resources on behalf of Aster. Also, she is leading an effort to expand membership and support for the UU Service Committee and Amnesty International. She has set a model for all of us in activism.

7. Understanding the SAC's Role. An ongoing effort was started in February to improve the committee's ability to identify areas where it should direct its efforts and also to decide what activities it should be enlisted to meet these goals. Congregation Member Jennifer Morse facilitated the meeting and members felt the process was something that should be continued. Planning is already underway to continue during the 2005-2006 year.
8. Service is Our Prayer. These brief statements at the beginning of each Sunday's service were used to inform and encourage congregational participation and support for a variety of issues relating to social justice. Open to all members of the congregation and scheduled through the SAC co-chairs.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred Rozum & Dick Gray
Co-chairs

***Valley Interfaith Project
2004-2005 Annual Report to the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix***

The Valley Interfaith Project (VIP) is a broad coalition of churches, schools, community organizations, and labor unions who work to unite parishes, congregations, synagogues, social, civic, employee, and business groups in the central Phoenix area for the common good. It is part of the statewide Arizona Interfaith Network, with sister organizations in the east valley, northern Arizona, Tucson and Pima county, and Yuma.

VIP teaches local citizen groups to seek and effectively use power at all levels in our democracy. VIP engages ordinary citizens in concerted non-partisan grass roots political action. It is funded with annual dues from its member institutions and foundation grants. The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix has been a member of VIP since the early 1990s.

Below is a brief summary of VIP activities over the last year:

- I. Joined with other Arizona Interfaith organizations to wage a campaign against Proposition on the November ballot. Although Proposition 200 passed, the margin in favor dropped from 75% to 56% by Election Day, in large part because of our voter education campaign. Precincts that we canvassed with trained volunteers had a marked increase in opposition to Proposition 200.
- II. Observed the Arizona legislature from mid-January till the end of the session. Attendees sat in on party caucuses, observed and testified at committee hearing on issues affecting children and families, and met with their elected representatives in small groups.
- III. As part of the daily presence at the legislature, the Arizona Institute for Public Life hosted noon time seminars to address the barriers that impact Arizona families, citizens, and immigrants in the areas of health care, immigration, tax policy, and education.
- IV. VIP was instrumental in encouraging the creation of Governor Napolitano's commission on aging, and leaders from VIP and East Valley Interfaith

were appointed to the Governor's Task Force on Long-term Health care for the elderly and disabled. They are nearing completion of a set of recommendations that will help shape improvements and standards in the training and employment of those who care for the frail elderly and disabled in Arizona.

V. Conducted a bi-lingual three-day training session in community organizing and the theory of grass roots political power, for member institution leaders.

VI. We conducted a successful information and voter turnout campaign in 2003 in support of the Maricopa County Integrated Health System ballot referendum creating a new Hospital District to fund the County Hospital and satellite Health Centers that provide a safety net for the uninsured. Since then, we have met regularly with hospital officials and the newly elected Hospital board of Directors to monitor progress and insure that our collective voice is heard.

Convener,
Donald Fenily

***Outdoor Group
2004-2005 Annual Report to the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix***

The Outdoor Group, in its fourteenth year, is primarily a day hiking group. Members also participate in service activities, provide greeters for Sunday morning services, prepare and serve dinner at the New Day Center once each year, and meet twice a year to plan a calendar of hikes and events for the next six months. Hikes normally take place on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month as well as on New Year's Day. A hike typically attracts 10-15 participants but we have had as many as 35.

There has been an effort this year to attract new members to the group, especially among families of the church. A display of upcoming hikes is maintained at the back of the sanctuary after Sunday services. A short local hike in the McDowell's included a picnic and members of the Outdoor Group who were mentoring the Coming of Age group gave special invitations to this group.

This year the group voted to make a contribution to the Combined Canvass of the Congregation. Each person pays \$2.00 for each hike. As the group has few direct costs, the amount has built up. \$1500-1600 was available. A pledge of \$1,000 to the Operating Budget and \$200 to the Building Campaign was made.

In the past year 23 hikes, trips and two planning meeting potlucks were scheduled:

1. North Rim, Grand Canyon National Park
2. Granite Mountain, Prescott
3. Red Mountain, Flagstaff
4. Sycamore Rim, Flagstaff
5. Bill Williams Trail, Williams
6. Caving expedition in Jerome
7. Butterfly Trail in Tucson area
8. Weatherford Trail in San Francisco Peaks in Flagstaff area
9. Haunted Canyon in Superstitions
10. Brins Mesa, Sedona
11. Phoenix Mountain Preserved
12. Family hike in McDowell Mountains near Fountain Hills
13. Spur Cross/Conversation Area
14. Barnhardt Trail in Mazatzals
15. Go-John Trail in Cave Creek

16. Seven Springs Trail in Cave Creek
17. Butcher Jones Trail in Saguaro Lake
18. Rogers Trough to Reavis Ranch in Superstition Mountains
19. Kent Springs, Madera Canyon
20. Peavine Trail in Prescott
21. General Springs Trail at Mogollon Rim
22. Four Peaks in Mazatzals (ROAD CLOSED; DID BARNHARDT)
23. Swimming party in North Phoenix

The Butcher Jones Trail hike was part of the American Cancer Society's "Climb to Conquer Cancer: fund raiser. Sue Baird continued to co coordinate our participation and \$600 was raised from the group in honor and memory of Hanna Parker.

Hike and other event leaders during the year included:

1. George and Shirley Karas
1. Eve Simon
2. Toni Colotte and Greg Holmberg
3. Pauline Peverly
4. Jan Wise
5. Sue Baird
6. Julie and Marshal Smart
7. Laura Rohlfing
8. Bernie Hall
9. Sharon Arnold
10. Sylvia Tucker
11. Gary Ezzell
12. Phylliss Henry
13. Ron Rohlfing
14. Linda and Fred Chamberlain
15. Elaine Knights
16. John and Penney Hill
17. Myra Banks
18. Frank Ashton
19. Dave Bosserman

Frank Ashton and Pauline Peverly each hosted a potluck-planning meeting. George Karas maintains an e-mail list of members and interested parties and sends reminder notices of all events.

Bernie Hall and Pauline Peverly
Co-Chairs

***Women's Spirituality Circle
2004 – 2005 Annual Report to the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix***

"We are sisters on a journey, though each of us follow her own path..."

The Women's Spirituality Group begins our meetings with these words each week as we seek to deepen our own spirituality and support each other in our personal search for meaning.

This year's activities were varied to include celebrations, social action, personal growth and social activities. We celebrated May Day with a May pole, music and dancing on the patio. Then for winter solstice led a church wide celebration with approximately 140 participants enjoying the music of "Europa" and dancing in a spiral that wound through the sanctuary and lastly, the women's group led a service on Mother's Day to honor the mothers in all of our lives.

We have been very active this year on two social action projects. The first, continuing to support and stay informed as the "Friends of Aster" and the second, our involvement with Leilane, a registered midwife, to provide baby blankets, wash clothes and personal supplies, to new mothers in Sri Lanka.

As part of our spiritual growth we have had discussions on spirituality, sharing our personal paths to UUCP, preparing for the end of life and have made candle holders which reflect our personal beliefs and experiences.

We have also fit into this busy schedule time to be with one another and develop closer bonds with pool parties, dancing, drumming, singing and chanting. Our active email listing has 34 names and usually attendance at meetings is about 20. The members of the Women's Spirituality Group are also actively involved in the Church on committees and interest groups.

***Circle Dinner Activity Group
2004 – 2005 Annual Report to the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix***

Circle Dinners are groups of folks getting together for food, fun and fellowship. The dinners are held in each other's homes and those who attend bring assigned items of food, which complete the dinner. This year approximately 17 dinners were held between September and May. September(opening dinner), December(holiday party) and May(grand finale)dinners were large group parties for all of the participants. Most all the participants agree that this is a wonderful way to meet new friends and socialize with old ones. The Circle Dinner Activity is seeking a new chairman, who will be assisted by the past chairman who has resigned after several years of planning the dinners. Please contact her if you would like to work on this worthwhile project.

Marcia Farrell, Chairman 602-995-9501

***Administrative Director's
2004 – 2005 Annual Report to the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix***

The administrative branch of our congregation has been assessing the computer software, equipment and office staffing to ascertain areas that need improvement. The financial computer software is the central hub to most administrative functions, yet our current system is prone to software corruption and only repaired through expensive technical support. We agreed to start the process of changing the financial system over to QuickBooks, an independent and more user-friendly program, and spent most of the year on this effort. In addition, the church software consists of four main programs that interface with each other to form a "package" and this, too, is being assessed for software corruption and user-friendliness.

Financial planning is leading to hiring a bookkeeper to help keep consistency in the financial system and professionalize our records. With the (re)addition of our Finance Committee, this will make things easier for congregants and staff in getting financial reports and efficient policy formation.

A new, color copier has changed the way we do our big publications. Although it requires as many repairs as our old equipment, these are at least covered under a lease agreement and it is ultimately effectual. The also allows congregants to make brochures and to produce other copy jobs with a professional look.

We now have less space available for programming and renting out as we wrestle with fire safety and code issues. Many groups have shifted to another space and everyone's had to learn to be flexible on Sundays in particular. This will continue to be a challenge during the construction to and renovation of the main building. Again, community-wide diligence will be key to managing the church calendar and space use to everyone's satisfaction.

We added "auxiliary" staff this year. Patricia Medrano is an hourly custodian who sets up or cleans up the building for big events that happen in the evenings or on the weekend. We have an hourly handyman, AJ Almanasier, who comes in routinely to perform building repairs. Lastly, Ellie Murphy, who is contracted to produce the Sunday Order of Service every week and to maintain office hours on Sundays.

Thanks to our office volunteers who help manage the church's business:

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| ➤ Bernie Hall | ➤ Peggy Paden |
| ➤ Sharon Hise | ➤ Bill Parker |
| ➤ Charlie Lynch | ➤ Julie Smart |

Submitted by, Karin Metcalf

***Sanctuary Team
Annual Report 2004 to the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix***

In the Sanctuary Christmas 2004 was celebrated with traditional decorations, garlands, wreaths, small artificial Christmas trees along the ramps leading to the pulpit and two decorated trees behind the choir. The Team decided in an economy effort to use the decorations that had been purchased by Joan Roberts and Sandy Thomson in December 2003. Dorothy Manser donated a gold cloth for the chalice. The art committee paintings were left on the walls with a winter painting hung behind the pulpit.

The "stored" decorations were moved again. Joan Roberts, Ann Jackel and Dorothy Manser organized them in Room17. Hopefully they will remain there until the building is remodeled.

The team welcomes other members who wish to be creative with decorations for the sanctuary and other church activities. Please call Peggy Paden 602 404 2501. UUCP members donating their time were Ann Jackel, Dorothy Manser, Peggy Paden, Joan Roberts, Ellen Baumann, Sandy Thomson, Jan Wise, Sally Boyd. Brenda Hoskins provides design advice.

Submitted by

Joan Roberts

***Sierra Ancha Wilderness Unitarian Universalist Religious Association
Annual Report 2004 to the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix***

SAWUURA is a beautiful 109 acre wilderness located seven miles south of Young, Arizona, surrounded by thousands of acres of the Tonto National Forest. A 9 member board of directors meets approximately 6 times a year to over see the facilities and plan opportunities for Unitarian Universalists to experience the wilderness. Our events are open to SAWUURA members and guests. We serve UU congregations in Arizona.

PROJECTS

We have reached the middle of our ten-year study of the effects of excluding cattle from our property. A grant from the Partners for Fish and Wildlife, USFW, helped pay for a wildlife friendly fence and cattle guards. As part of the agreement, we are conducting a study to see what changes we can detect in the habitat and the wildlife. Among our projects are recording ground water depth; photo points—photographing from selected points from season to season; recording bird and wildlife sightings; and recording plant species.

As of this spring, no cattle are grazing in either the Dinner or Dump pastures. No cattle have been on the property to our knowledge, since the breach in 2001, when a large number of cattle were on the property for several weeks. Further information about SAWUURA can be found on our web site <http://www.sawuura.org>.

CONDITIONS AT SAWUURA

As reported last year, the majority of our ponderosa pines have died due to the bark beetle infestation. Most of the affected trees were on the higher slopes, there were some large ponderosa in the stream bed that suffered from the infestation as well.

Because of the heavy winter rains that we had this year the hand dug well has about 3 feet of water in it. We have been keeping a log of the water depth for the last 5 years. Our drinking water well is providing adequate amount of water for all our camping needs.

However this year we have to rebuild the windmill pumping system.

The heavy winter rains has brought more wildlife into SAWUURA this year and the vegetation is much thicker than last year. At this point I do not have an up to date count on bird species and or new plants that might be in or on the property. This was the first year that I can remember that the seven-mile creek has run bank to bank through the property, it was quite a sight. This year we had a group of young people spend there coming of age week end at SAWUURA and it was a great success, we hope to do this every year with at least one if not two of the different UU congregation's in Arizona.

Our board continues to carry out a ladder fuel reduction project, in an attempt to minimize the effect of a potential wild fire. Our fire policy acknowledges the benefits of fire to the health of the ecosystem, and at the same time promotes fuel reduction to prevent fire from reaching the crowns of the trees.