



A Welcoming Congregation

Celebration of Life

Sundays, 10:30 AM

DEC. 7: "THIS IS HOLY"
GROUND

Service Leader: Susan Frederick-Gray

December is the season of Advent, the New Year in the Christian calendar. It is a time of preparation and invitation. Christians prepare themselves to invite Love, Hope, Peace and Joy into their lives and into the world. In Unitarian Universalist worship, there is also a kind of invitation that happens. Through worship, we are able to invite joy and inspiration, love and meaning into our living. We do this every week--and this act makes our time together

special, sacred, perhaps even holy.

DEC. 14: "THE ABUNDANCE FOUND IN GIVING"

Service Leader: Susan Frederick-Gray

Giving has the power to change us and to make us more aware of the abundance that exists in our lives. In this season of giving, even in these uncertain economic times, it is important to remember how generosity can change who we are and can make a difference in lives of others. One key is discovering what we have to give.

DEC. 21: "FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS"

Service Leader: Susan Frederick-Gray

Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, begins at sundown on December 21. During the winter, the darkest time of the year, many holidays use the symbol of light to combat the darkness of the season. We will look at some of these holidays and how they speak to our need for hope and joy.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

5:30 PM Intergenerational Family Service: "The Last Straw"

Service Leaders: Susan Frederick-Gray and Kim St. Clair

This family friendly service will

feature a production of *The Last Straw*, a sweet and humorous story about the camel who carries the gifts of the Magi to the newborn baby in Bethlehem.

7:30 PM Candlelight Service: "A Christmas Peace"

Service Leaders: Susan Frederick-Gray, Connie Jahrmarkt and the Choir

This candlelight service, filled with music, carols and stories, will celebrate the messages of peace, hope, love and joy of the Christmas season.

DEC. 28 "HYMN SING!"

Service Leader: Connie Jahrmarkt
Be thinking about your favorite hymns and carols in preparation for this service. Everyone will have a chance to submit their favorite hymns or carols at the beginning of the service and we will sing as many as we get through. Bring your joyful voices!

Soulful Sundown Service

First Sundays, 6 PM

DEC. 2 THE THIRD PRINCIPLE & SOURCE

Soulful Sundown band will lead the music. Come to laugh, play, clap, shout, sing, dance, give, move and be inspired!

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Minister's Musings

Yesterday I checked the weather in Youngstown, Ohio (where I lives just 5 months ago). The forecast called for 7 straight days of snow. Boy, how a few months can change a person's life. The holiday season is always a busy time and the hours of daylight grow short, but something about the crisp cool air of late fall in the Northeast would make me feel more alive.

I experienced this a few weeks ago walking through the leaves which lay inches deep on the sidewalk in Concord, MA. The peak of the color had passed but yellow and a few red leafed trees held on. Walking around Walden Pond, the place where Henry David Thoreau retreated to write *Nature* was stunning at sunset on the first weekend in November. And the air felt like pure life in my lungs. I had been to the pond once before nearly ten years ago when I was first in seminary. It had not changed much, that I could see. The same could not be said for me. Ministry, marriage, motherhood, and now a relocation to an area of the country so different from my previous homes. "It was an adventure" says a line from one of my two-year-old son's favorite books—and indeed the passage of time and the changes that life bring create something always new—yet there are always traces of the past that remain. Many things have changed me in the decade since I last stood at that pond's edge—and yet the emotions I felt seeing it again were much the same. The way its beauty alighted in my heart, the way my

body and feet felt pounding along the dirt path that circumnavigates the pond, the way my mind and imagination connected to the history that occurred there—all felt similar. I can even say I felt a bit of that young, "green" seminary student again.

Arriving back in Phoenix, it hardly seems like almost December. The plants in our back yard, unfamiliar to us, planted by the previous owner, have now come into full bloom. No matter what my minds says, in my body it feels like September or May.

I was warned of this experience. The search committee told me, that summer here is like the winter in the North, and fall is like Spring. Well, the weather is beautiful now, and I know my body will adjust. Truth be told it is already adjusting, slowly but surely.. "It is an adventure." One that does not come with out change and lots of learning—but one that I am greeting with openness and excitement.

I feel so blessed to be in ministry with all of you and look forward to all the ways in which we will grow and learn together.

Yours,
Susan

Questions about Moving to Two Services

On Sunday, January 4th, after the service at 12:15 PM, there will be a meeting to discuss the opportunities, challenges and concerns involved in having two services on Sunday morning. In the meantime, congregation members will be receiving an electronic survey through email asking for input and preferences regarding the move to two services. The surveys should go out just before Thanksgiving and we invite everyone to fill them out. Your input will provide the program staff and leadership the pulse of the congregation around this issue and in preparing and planning. If you do not have email, hard copies will be available in the office.

Installation of Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

Sunday, January 25th (time to be announced)

In Unitarian Universalism, congregations formally install their called ministers through a special Installation service. This is a time to celebrate the shared ministry that begins with the calling of a minister, and an opportunity for the minister and the congregation to covenant with one another to carry out the ministry. Historically, services of Installation have also been an opportunity to speak to larger themes in our Association—to our history and also our vision of the future. The Reverend Jason Shelton, Associate Minister

From the Board of Trustees...

for Music at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashville will be preaching. Rev. Shelton is the composer of Sources, which our UUCP choir and the Chandler UU Choir performed together last Spring. He is also the composer of the hymns "Standing on the Side of Love" and "The Fire of Commitment."

Mark your calendars for January 25. More information will be able in the January Horizons.

From the President...

December signals the end of an eventful year for our Congregation. We have welcomed a vibrant and energetic new minister, Reverend Susan, as well as many new and returning members. Our programs continue to expand and we are considering how to accomplish necessary health, safety, and environmental improvements on our campus. This year has also been eventful nationally with the election of a new president with an ambitious and promising agenda. This year has also seen serious economic turmoil, which has rippled through the local, national, and international community. Many in our region are faced with difficult financial struggles. These struggles are made that much worse by dwindling contributions to charities and limited available governmental assistance. During these difficult times, we can reach out to those most directly affected by donating time and resources to local food banks and shelters and by comforting those who have suffered losses, financial and otherwise. In the coming weeks, the Board of

Trustees will finalize a policy that provides for donation of our "loose plate"—undesignated sums collected during one Sunday service each month—to charitable organizations recommended by our Social Action Committee (SAC). SAC also continues to co-ordinate a variety of charitable contributions by congregational members. These include collecting new and gently used books, especially in Spanish, for disadvantaged preschool children attending the Booker T. Washington Child Development Center in central Phoenix. Donations of money to purchase furniture for two new classrooms at BTW is also welcome. SAC will also be collecting personal care items, such as shampoo, soap, wash cloths and towels, lotion, deodorant, razors and the like, from congregational members for Interfaith Cooperative Ministries (ICM), also located in central Phoenix. In addition, SAC will be collecting diapers, lotion, wipes, and the like to assist families in transition who are staying at the New Day Center, in Phoenix. Please take the opportunity to donate to these, or other, charitable programs.

Want to directly influence how your state tax dollars are spent AND help those in need? Then consider taking advantage of two Arizona tax credit programs: (1) the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit, and (2) the Arizona School Tax Credit programs. Under the first, eligible taxpayers may contribute up to \$400 per couple (\$200 per individual) to qualified charitable

organizations assisting the poor in Arizona, such as Booker T. Washington. Under the second, Arizona taxpayers may donate up to \$400 per couple (\$200 per individual) to schools—consider making a donation to a public school in a disadvantaged area. Both programs provide a dollar for dollar credit against state income taxes AND can aid the disadvantaged in our state. See the SAC table at the back of the Sanctuary for more information about tax credits or contributing to BTW, ICM, and New Day Center.

As we prepare to celebrate the holidays in our various ways—whether Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Pagan, Buddhist, or otherwise, let us remember those who struggle and take the opportunity to offer support to them. May it be so.

Respectfully,

Sarah Carlson, President
Board of Trustees

Greetings from your Music Director!

This is going to be a beautiful season of celebration. Just look at this line up:

SOLSTICE

DECEMBER 20 AT 7:00PM

This is the most fun night of the year (at least for me!) We ask a nominal donation, \$10 (only for adults) to help cover costs. Music, dancing, singing, merry-making. Lets gather a great crowd to celebrate the return of the light!

SOULFUL SUNDOWN

DECEMBER 2 AT 6:00 P.M.

Theme: Our 3rd Principle. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations and Our 3rd Source: Wisdom from the world's religions, which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life.

~Come to laugh, play, clap, shout, sing, dance, give, move and be inspired!

-Musicians who want to play in the Soulful Sundown band, contact me: musicdirector@phoenixuu.org or 480 970 8807. We'll rehearse an hour before the service at 5:00pm.

SACNTORUM SOLSTICE CONCERT

DECEMBER 5TH AT 7:00PM

Directed by our pianist, Lynne Haeseler, this concert will celebrate the season with amazing music and song. Donation \$10 at the door.

DECEMBER 28TH AT 10:30 A.M. HYMN SING!

If you did not get enough carol singing, here is your chance. Or if you are tired of carols by the 28th, pick others of our favorite songs. Come ready to request your favorites.

If you need more beautiful music, in our sanctuary on December 14th at 3:00 p.m. will be a concert featuring In Terra Pax a cantata by Gerald Finzi. "The most beautiful Christmas music ever written," says conductor, Warren Cohen. (Yes, I'm telling you about this because I'm playing in the orchestra.)

Hey the choir is planning to sing carols to some of our UUCP members again this year. If you want to join us, let me know. It looks like the date will be December 6th in the afternoon. We'll meet at the church and car pool from there. I hear rumors of a party at the end.

Make your own music, or someone else's.

Connie Jahrmarkt

From Your Director of Religious Education

[IlUmination] honors our flaming chalice, the symbol of our faith and our Unitarian Universalist principles and purposes. When we honor our flaming chalice, we also recognize the light that our faith brings to the world and we take our place alongside other people of faith who have holidays/holy days to honor their own light and faith. (UU Congregation of Little Rock)

On December 7th, our children will share our second celebration of the only uniquely UU holiday, IlUmination. Though we come from varied faith traditions or no faith tradition at all, the one thing we UU's can agree upon is our flaming chalice is a living symbol that embodies our search for truth, our commitment to compassion and justice, and most of all, hope, beauty and love.

We will decorate the Johnson Room with purple and silver and with lots and lots of chalices! Even though it's a children's service, I would be thrilled if a cross-section of the congregation would bring your favorite chalice to adorn our alter, or perhaps bake some chalice cookies for the children to enjoy as they are reminded of the wonder of our free faith through story, song, dance and art.

May December bring you many flaming chalices - those we can see and those we can feel in our souls. In peace and love, Kim



"To Seek Knowledge in Freedom . . ."

CHILDCARE PROVIDED ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

Our nursery is open at 9:00 a.m. every Sunday morning so parents may attend book discussion group, an Adult Religious Education course, or committee meetings. No advance registration is needed.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASS

Wisdom of Hinduism for Daily Living

Jay Alagia and Terry Simmons, long time members of our UUCP, will teach a class using selected verses from Bhagavad-Gita on December, 9 am. to 11:30 am. Attendance is limited to six students. After the class, the students may join Jay and Terry for a buffet lunch at the Indian restaurant located at 16th and Campbell, Phoenix.

If interested please contact Jay or sign up at the book table, with your contact information. Jay can be reached at 602 952-8889 or JAlagia@cox.net

Parenting Beyond Belief -

January

Class Book on Sale Now!

"Parenting Beyond Belief: On Raising Ethical, Caring Kids Without Religion" by Dale McGowan. It's hard enough to live a secular life in a religious world. And bringing up children outside of a "traditional" religious influence can be even more daunting. In *Parenting Beyond Belief*, Dale McGowan celebrates the freedom that comes with raising kids without formal indoctrination and advises parents on the most effective way to raise freethinking children. With advice from educators, doctors, psychologists, and philosophers as well as wisdom from everyday parents, the book offers tips and insights on a variety of topics, from "mixed marriages" to coping with death and loss, and from morality and ethics to dealing with holidays. Of course, we will discuss how being in a UU community provides a unique opportunity to "parent beyond belief" in a supportive liberal faith tradition.

Instructor: Kim St. Clair

Dates & Time: Sundays @ 9:00 am – 1/11, 1/19 and 1/25

Fee: \$10.00 or presentation of the UUS Pass (plus purchase of book for \$14 at the book table)

"Love is the Doctrine of this Congregation . . ."

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- December 7: 10:30 a.m. - Children's Worship - IIIU Umination - Johnson Room; Nifty Gifty - 12:30-2:45 - Johnson Room
- December 14 - Sunday school class - (1st-6th grade begin in sanctuary)
- December 21 - Special Christmas Program for children Pre-k through 6th grades - Johnson Room; Christmas Eve service rehearsal (noon)
- December 24 - 5:30 p.m. - "The Last Straw" Christmas Eve service
- December 28 - No children's program - nursery open for children up to 5 years old

NIFTY GIFTY

For the second year in a row, YRUU and the Children's Ministry committee will be offering a "parent's day out" on December 7th from 12:30-2:45 p.m. in the Johnson Room. Children ages 4-12 will have the chance to make 5-10 gifts at various stations. They will also wrap their gifts and will be fed lunch! The cost is \$25 for the first child and \$15 for each additional sibling. Proceeds will cover costs and will raise money for our youth group, YRUU. Please RSVP to Kim St. Clair at redirector@phoenixuu.org

redirector@phoenixuu.org

"THE LAST STRAW" MAKES ITS UUCP DEBUT ON CHRISTMAS EVE

Our 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service will feature a lovely play called "The Last Straw." Most of the major parts have been cast, but we could use 5-8 children 5 and older to play non-speaking parts. We will have at least one rehearsal at noon on December 21, 2008. Also needed are stagehands and costume and prop makers. Please contact Kim St. Clair at redirector@phoenixuu.org if you can participate.

A SLICE OF LIFE FROM ROOM 15

By Tiffany Mendez, Nursery Supervisor and Childcare Coordinator

We have many new friends that have been joining us these past couple months. The old timers are doing a great job showing the newbies around. Gabby loves to show off the outside play area. Her favorite activity is to roll cars down the slide to see which one flings farther. Henry will tell Mr. Daniel, "I need to go outside." Marcus likes to take turns jumping on the trampoline with his brother Matthew. Eric enjoys playing with the many trucks inside and outside, off the tables onto the floor out the door to collect lots of sand.

Shaylynne helps set up snack for the older kids then enjoys playing hide-n-seek with Daniel. We can't forget circle time, where we say

our covenant, and read our favorite book "The Napping House," and line up to wash hands for snack! We are busy, busy back in the nursery, learning through the many activities of play.

DECEMBER BRINGS ILLUUMINATION

In addition to celebrating the myriad light festivals of other faith traditions, our children will have the opportunity to explore our UU heritage and the light of hope our religious faith brings to the world during a special "IIIU Umination" celebration on December 7th at 10:30 a.m. in the Johnson Room. IIIU Umination is a unique UU holiday that tells the story of our chalice and how we bring together the best of the world's religions. IIIU Umination's colors are deep purple and silver, so don your best purple duds and be ready to celebrate being a UU!

BUILDING A STRONG MULTI-GENERATIONAL COMMUNITY - UU PALS STYLE!

By Ann Marie Ciemny, UU Pals Coordinator

We had a great kick-off event where pals got to meet and get to know each other while doing some different craft activities. We are looking forward to Caroling with the choir on Dec 6th at about noon. So mark you calendars!

DECEMBER A SHORT MONTH FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

Due to our IIIU Umination and Christmas celebrations, there will only be one Sunday school class in December (the 14th). The nursery will be open as usual.

1st-2nd Grade - Lead Teacher - Jennifer Hempel - This month we will review what we learned so far about how we are all alike and different, and sum it all up with some fun games! We will also look ahead to the New Year, and talk about what we want to learn more about as a group.

3rd-4th Grade - Lead Teacher - Hannah Roberts - This December, the third and fourth graders will be learning about explorer Vilhjalmur Stefansson and his interactions with the Inuit people. We will also take a look back at the other Unitarian Universalist Superheroes that we have been learning about so far this year!

ROOTS & SHOOTS HOLIDAY GIFT BAGS

Between Thanksgiving and New Year's the amount of waste in the US increases by 25% ! That's 5 million extra tons. Come check out our handmade fabric gift bags at the UUCP Holiday Gift Market on Dec. 7th after service. Proceeds from your purchase will help with our group's various charity projects throughout the year.

Questions about Roots & Shoots contact: Todd Cruse, Nancy Cruse, or Susan Leung.



From the EEC

In this season of giving, the UUEEC will have a **Book Fair** on **Sunday, December 7** to give UUCP members an opportunity to purchase books for donation to Booker T. Washington. There are a wide variety of books available with prices beginning around \$4.00. Please look for us on the patio and in Room 10. This is a wonderful way to support the UUEEC and provide books for Booker T. Washington! This is also a wonderful opportunity to purchase books for gift giving. There will be a wide variety of titles that appeal to a wide age range.

For those interested, there will be a jar at the book fair for pocket change that goes to Scholastic Books who in return, match the amount raised and donate books to one of three organizations, Toys for Tots, K.I.D.S or the National Center for Family Literacy.

Have a joyous Holiday Season!

Jane Armstrong
UUEEC Director

You may have tangible

wealth untold;

Caskets of jewels

and coffers of gold.

Richer than I

you can never be -

I had a mother

who read to me.

~Strickland Gillilan



Unicare

It is with affection and a great sense of our Congregational history that we remember Thomasena Grigsby - Tommy to those of us who knew her - who passed away November 9 just before her 90th birthday. Tommy and her husband, Gene, were founding members and long-time supporters of our UU Congregation. Tommy was an educator, writer, traveler, a strong presence in the causes of social action in Phoenix and a loving mother, wife and friend. We extend our deepest sympathy and love to Gene and his family.

At this writing the date of the memorial service is to be determined.

Mary Grobe suffered a fall this past month and has been moved from the hospital to Brighton Gardens at 6001 E. Thomas Rd. in Scottsdale - 85251. We send our thoughts of love to Mary and her devoted husband, Ed.

Don Moran who had returned to the valley after a short stay in Oregon has suffered a heart attack and stroke. He is doing well in recovery and can be reached at Health South on 13460 N. 67th Ave. in Glendale -85304. The phone number there is 623-878-8800. Don would appreciate our cards and a phone call or visit from his friends.

Our sympathy and love to Billye Butler who lost a dear and close sister this past month. Knowing Billye, we just wish we had known her sister!

Jane Grenard is doing well after additional surgery on her knee and is now buckling down to do therapy and exercise to get back on her feet. She gives a lot of praise to her husband, Jack, who is a first-rate caregiver!

Huge bouquets of Fall flowers go to Rod Armstrong who has taken on the task of finishing a remodel of Ruth Clark's home and to Gary Ezzell his very able assistant. Good progress is being made through the efforts of Rod's architectural firm. Still needed is financial assistance. To find out how

you might help, give Rod a call.

Former member of UUCP, Bobbie Root, died on November 7th at her home in Prescott. When she was a member here, Bobbie was on the Board of Trustees. After moving to Prescott, she was an active member of the Prescott UU Fellowship.

The ministry of love and help that is mustered each month from our Congregation is truly amazing. We are definitely larger than the sum of our parts!

Facing our challenges together in community,

Julie Smart, Unicare Chair

Thanks to all who have helped at the Clark

Residence

In regard to the Clark Residence Renovation, I am glad to report that we have had great participation from church members over the last two weeks. Fortunately, all of our meals are covered but we can use more construction and painting help. The following is a list of each person that signed up, participated or has set a time to participate:

Dawn Ostroff: Breakfast

Gary Ezell: Lunch; Help for 2 work parties; and a third night of moving furniture and household effects

Harriett Williams: Two Lunches

Susan Morris: Two Breakfasts

Mary & Gary Dokes: Lunch

Pam & John Gill: Breakfast

Bill Lace: Construction of Bathroom wall and door.

Bert Pearlman: Photography

Jen Hemple: Day care for Cruz

Julie Erfle: Day Care for Cruz

Kim St. Clair: Setting up Doodle link

If I have missed anyone we will add you with each successive report. Each of these people has assisted immeasurably in the progress of the renovation and a more enjoyable holiday season for Ruth and Cruz.

Thank you,

Rod Armstrong

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

Robert Sclater

Ann Sclater

Agnes Lenore Hetebrueg Ericson

Jo Ann Davy

Steven Knight

Social Action Holiday

Projects

Each year the SAC suggests 3 holiday projects in which the congregation and schools participate. This year they are:

Booker T Washington Child Development Center - books for preschool and early grades in Spanish and/or English. Congregation will have an opportunity to purchase books at the UUEEC Scholastic Book Fair open on Sunday, Dec. 6 during coffee hour. Gently used books from home are also appropriate.

New Day Family Shelter - diapers, lotion, wipes, blanket, outfit, toy, anything for a baby up to one year. The need is great to be able to provide a ready-made box to a mother in these difficult times. NO FORMULA please.

Interfaith Cooperative Ministries = ICM - personal care items such as lotions, deodorant, razors, shampoo, lip gloss, Vaseline, soap, wash cloths, towels. These items are very necessary to the thousands of underserved in our population.

We hope you will do your part in all three holiday projects - it is so easy to help others!

UU Service Committee

FAIR TRADE - EQUAL EXCHANGE COFFEE

Equal Exchange pays farmers above what they would earn under conventional trade practices. This allows farmers to better meet their families' basic needs, such as food, education, and health care.

Come to the Social Action table or at coffee hour and buy delicious coffee for yourself and as gifts. Many flavors - one price - \$8 per bag. Also chocolate bars at \$3 and tea at \$3.50.

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE BOXES

When we place a coin or dollar in the little box it is a reminder of how fortunate we are. This year UUSC is focusing on the 60th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights. The right to clean water, economic justice, civil liberties are rights we take for granted. UUSC has teamed up with native people such as Serafina in S. Africa, Amina in Darfur, Dalia in Egypt who are working for these basic human rights. Place the little box near your table to remind you of the clean water we drink, the ability to read and say what we wish and just being able to enjoy life. So many of our brothers and sisters in the world do not have these simple human rights.

HOLIDAY CARDS

Beautiful holiday cards designed exclusively by UUs are on sale at the Social Action table. They are priced at \$15 for a package of 8-10 or 16 with all proceeds going towards UUSC worldwide social justice projects.

Tax Credit Time!

You may be able to direct your Arizona State taxes to worthwhile causes of your own choice!

You have the opportunity to take advantage of two great tax bargains that enable you to help the needy in our community at no extra cost to you!

1.The Arizona Welfare Reform Charitable Tax Credit

If you meet the eligibility requirements for this credit you may contribute up to \$200 (single return) or \$400 (joint return) to a qualifying charity of your choice and receive a dollar for dollar credit against the taxes you owe the state (as well as an itemized deduction on your federal taxes –“free money”).

Briefly you are eligible if you:

1. Itemize deductions on your Fed. Tax at least once since 1996 (baseline year & this year).
2. Have a tax liability to Arizona
3. Contribute up to \$200(single) or \$400 (joint) more than your baseline year to qualifying charitable organization to help poor.

We hope you will select Booker T. Washington Child Development Center, 1519 E. Adams St., Phoenix, 85034, a Head Start program

for three to five year olds, most living below the poverty level. UUCP has supported BTW since 1968.

2. Public School Tax Credit

Anyone with a tax liability to Arizona is eligible to receive a dollar for dollar credit (\$200 single or \$400 joint return) by contributing to a public school extracurricular fund. You do not have to itemize. We suggest you choose a school in a low-income district where parents are unable to provide the extras. Our suggestions are Augustus Shaw School 123 N. 13th Street, Phoenix 85034 or Garfield Elementary School, 811 N. 13th Street, Phoenix 85006. Many BTW children "graduate" to these schools.

More information is available at the Social Action Table or consult your tax advisor.

Bridges Into Africa

African Unitarian Universalists? Our religious cousins are in Africa, including some 20 congregations in Kenya, the 90-year-old congregations in Nigeria, and new fellowships in Burundi, Uganda and Congo. Although poor, hungry and often unemployed, UU African congregations are increasing in number, primarily because our faith welcomes African heritage. UUism in Africa means 'love.' Janice Brunson has been introducing us to Bridges Into Africa .. the January tour is full! See Janice for information on how you can help.

Immigration Myth and Fact

Myth: Undocumented immigrants don't pay taxes

Fact: Undocumented immigrants pay taxes in the form of income, property, sales and frequently, payroll taxes at the federal and state level.

Studies vary, but show that immigrants pay between \$90 and \$140 billion a year in federal, state and local taxes. Undocumented immigrants pay into Social Security as evidenced by the SSA's suspense file (taxes that cannot be matched to workers names and ss numbers). Sales taxes are paid by everyone and supply nearly half of state revenue. Schools are funded by property taxes which are paid by everyone who owns a home or apartment. Apartment owners and landlords who rent to immigrants pay taxes.

Looking for a Gay Pride Coordinator - are you the one?

See Sandy Weir if you are interested in fostering great UU participation in next April's parade.

We were saddened with the passage of Prop 102 in Arizona and similar measures across the country. Saturday, November 15th, over 3,500 gay rights supporters gathered at Phoenix City Hall and marched to the Arizona State Capitol. The demonstration was part of a nationwide protest organized by Join the Impact. At City Hall there were speakers from the GLBT community, faith leaders, councilmen, former and current Arizona State legislators. UUCP had over 30 members at this event. Our beautiful hot pink banner was very much in evidence. More activities are planned. To see how you can show your support visit JoinTheImpact.com.

Committee Meeting

Social Action Committee meeting December 14 in Annex B .. won't you join us? You, too, can change the world ... indeed, it is the only way it can be done!

Finance Update

Our Treasurer, Smoot Carl-Mitchell, and members of the Finance Committee are happy to report that there's nothing but good news this month! As you can see from the chart below, we're financially stable, and we're right on target with our pledges. In these very difficult economic times, UUCP members should be especially commended for their steady support of our wonderful new minister, staff and programs.

The holiday season is always a hectic one, but it's still important that we continue to keep our pledge payments up to date. (And if you're feeling especially generous toward this beloved community, a little extra as a seasonal gift would be very much appreciated.) Just remember, if you want your contributions to be attributed to the calendar year 2008 for tax purposes, they must be received by December 31.

Joyous holidays to you all, and may 2009 bring a happier economic situation to the entire world.

Ellie Murphy
for the Finance Committee;
Mary Dokes, chair

UUCP Financial Update			
Fiscal Year - July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009			
(Operating & EEC)			
as of September, 2008			
We are about 25% through the fiscal year			
Category	Budget	Year to Date Actual	Percent of Budget
Pledge Income	\$325,008	\$78,926	24.3%
Total Income	\$654,151	\$169,023	25.8%
Total Expenses	\$687,505	\$191,748	27.9%
Net Income	(\$30,732)	(\$20,102)	65.4%

Green Learning for the Future

By Susan Leung

ONE FUTURE: OUR KIDS

Twelve UUCP families gathered for an Eco Scavenger Hunt and Potluck Dinner on Saturday, November 15. The children learned about solar energy, graywater systems, and dual flush toilets. Then, everyone enjoyed delicious food and roasted marshmallows for s'mores.

ANOTHER FUTURE: GREENING FOR THE HOLIDAYS

As Rev. Susan pointed out in her "Seven Generations" sermon on Nov. 16, our individual efforts are a first step in respecting our environment and its future. In keeping with a mantra of reduce, reduce, and reduce, here are a few green tips for the holidays:

- Purchase organically and locally grown food. This reduces transportation and packaging costs, plus it tastes great.
- Make a donation to a charitable organization, instead of giving a gift.
- Use recyclable packaging for your gifts. Roots & Shoots will be selling fabric gifts at the Holiday Craft Fair (12/7 and 12/14). Traditional wrapping paper is not recycled in our area; you can reuse the gift wrap, rather than throwing it away.

- Plan your holiday shopping to minimize driving trips, or shop on-line.
- If you decorate with a tree, consider using a live one or recycle your cut tree by chipping it for mulch or decorating with treats for the birds.

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that we have formed eleven pods as part of our welcoming ministry. We are pleased with the many people who have volunteered to help. It allows us to rotate this important effort. If you are interested in participating in this effort email membership@phoenixuu.org.

Our next New UU Class (A Pathway to Membership) will commence on Sunday, January 11, 2009 at 9:00 am in the Johnson Room and continue on the 18th and followed by a Potluck on Saturday, January 24th. New members will be received by the congregation on Sunday, January 25. Sign ups can occur at the Sunday Welcoming Table in the front of the Sanctuary, online on our website or calling the office at 602-840-8400.

Respectfully,

Larry Agle, Chair

Thank You from Teaching Tolerance

October, 27, 2008

Thank you so very much for your Congregation's donation to Teaching Tolerance.

Your program sounds quite powerful, and we're delighted you were able to use "The Children's March."

Thank you again for your generosity and for your important work for tolerance and justice.

Jennifer Holladay, Director
Teaching Tolerance

Sanctuary Team

The Member-Friend exhibit comes to the end of "show" on December 5th. All art items should be removed either Friday, Dec 5th, 9 AM to Noon, or Saturday from 10 to 12. A many times thank you to all the exhibitors. Our congregation/friends provided a diverse collection of art and photography. Please mark September 2009 on your calendars for the fall Member-Friend show.

Christmas decorations will be the December theme of our Sanctuary.

Our January-February exhibit is the ABC/AZ (Artist of the Black Community/AZ) with Khandra Howard as our contact person.

We are excited to be working with Ms. Howard. This is the first showing of ABC/AZ at our congregation.

Jan Wise and Joan Roberts, Co-Chairs

Looking for a "Green"

present to give yourself for the Holidays?

Join the UU Outdoor Group for a hike right here in the Valley.

HIKE: RIO SALADO HABITAT RESTORATION AREA - A FAMILY FRIENDLY HIKE.

Date: December 13, 2008

Meeting Time: 8:00 a.m.

Meeting Place: Starbucks at Park Central (Between Osborn and Thomas on N. Central)

Distance: 4 mile loop

Rating: easy

Leaders: Frank Ashton and Sally Boyd

NEW YEARS DAY HIKE AND POTLUCK

Date: January 1, 2008

Place: Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area

(North of Cave Creek)

Meeting Time: 9:00 a.m. to leave at 9:30 Meeting Place: Cave Creek Coffee Company (C-4) 6033 E. Cave Creek Road in the town of Cave Creek

Distance and difficulty: 6 miles moderate or 3 miles easy.

Leaders: George and Shirley Karas, 480-488-1873 or ggkaras@cox.net

Potluck Location: home of George and Shirley; directions will be available at hike.

Open Art Studio

On December 16, 23 and 30th there is an open art studio for water color painting in Johnson Room or the art room of the Desert view school, from 9 am. to 11:30 pm. Limited instruction is provided, if needed on an individual basis. For more information, call Jay Alagia, 602 952-8889.

Holiday Craft Sale

The Holiday Craft Sale will be held during coffee on December 7 and 14. Members and friends have hand crafted many unusual gifts for your holiday shopping. At least 25% of sales will be donated to UUCP.

Traveling 2nd Fridays 2009

Mark your calendars the 2nd Friday of each month (EXCEPT FOR APRIL – 1st FRIDAY DUE TO EASTER). It is held at the U-U Congregation, 4027 E. Lincoln Dr. in the sanctuary from 7:00 to 8:00 PM.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA – JOAN PATE, FRIDAY, JANUARY 9

Papua New Guinea is located on the second largest island in the world about 100 miles north of Australia. Of all of the sixty three countries we have visited, it is by far the most primitive. In fact, the interior of the island lacks an adequate road system, most of the time we traveled in a small six passenger airplane landing on grass strips and in a small boat on the river system. The capital city of Port Moresby, located on the coastline, has all of the modern conveniences, but only eighteen percent of the population lives in any of its cities. The rest of the people live in small traditional tribal villages. They live off the land, using only the products naturally available. These villages do not have water systems or electricity. Without electricity they have little contact with the outside world, and abide by native customs much different from our own.

THE LIFE AND LESSONS OF 20 YEARS IN AFRICA— DAVE BELDAMA AND NANCY McCHAREN, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Africa is a continent full of life and passions, highs and lows, rich and poor, the good and the bad and everything in between. In twenty years of living, working and raising a family in several countries in Africa, Dave Bellama and Nancy McCharen have experienced much of what Africa has to offer. They both began as Peace Corps Volunteers in Niger, West Africa, and after returning to the US for higher education in public health, African studies, and environmental studies kept going back to Africa. Dave and Nancy will share with us the life and lessons from the “ole continent” which they love.

FANTASTIC FRANCE – KAREN COOK, MARCH 13

Seven years ago, Karen Cook learned that she has cousins in France. Since then, she and her husband Dan have visited France three times, and Karen has attended language school there. Their travels have taken them from Provence in the south to Mont Saint-Michel in the north, the beautiful coastal town of La Rochelle on the Atlantic to the tiny villages of Alsace in the east. Come see their photos, learn about their experiences, and hear about their plans to live in France for 7 months beginning in April, 2009.

ADVENTURES IN ANTARCTICA— JOAN & BILL ROBERTS, FRANK ASHTON, SHIRLEY & GEORGE KARAS, AND JULIE & MARSHAL SMART, FRIDAY, APRIL 3

(first Friday due to Easter)

Within the last 4+ years UUCP members Joan & Bill Roberts, Frank Ashton, Shirley & George Karas, and Julie & Marshal Smart traveled on separate occasions to the great white (and cold) land of Antarctica. Join them on April 3 as they share photos and videos from their adventures.

BHUTAN AND NEPAL— JOAN GALE, FRIDAY, MAY 8

Both lands offer beautiful scenery of the Himalayan Mountains with rivers, active cities and exotic and deeply religious people. There are many photos of the Buddhist monasteries, Hindu temples and a few of the New Delhi streets and temples taken during an unexpected layover and a one day city tour. In all 3 countries, people were open and friendly to the photos we took.

ANCIENT TURKEY— BARBARA CAWTHORNE, FRIDAY, JUNE 12

Some of the sights in Istanbul's old town are the Spice Bazaar, Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia (a masterpiece of Byzantine architecture), and Topkapi Palace. Cappadocia is the region where people lived in rock dwellings from the 10th C. Nearby is a 7th C. underground city used by Christians fleeing Arab raiders. Going through the Taurus Mountains

during a blizzard was frightening on the way to the beautiful Mediterranean port city of Antalya. Along the coast there are examples of the many ruins from the Greek and Roman Empires including Ephesus and Pergamon.

If you have any questions about Traveling 2nd Fridays, call Barbara Cawthorne at (480) 994-1452. Join us for this one-hour presentation and discussion. Everyone is welcome! Remember – MARK your calendars.

- **Travel and stay in homes of people who share your ideals**
- **Learn about hosting people in your home to earn extra money**

The UU bed and breakfast directory *UU're Home* (formerly *Homecomings*) offers a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and are happy to open their home to like-minded people. Travel to different cities and stay in reasonably priced accommodations or become a host and enjoy meeting new friends.

For more information, visit www.UUreHome.com or write to info@uurehome.com



www.UUreHome.com
43 Vermont Court
Asheville, NC 28806
828-281-3253

Human Relations and Conflict Resolution Committee bring to you a special workshop led by our own Kate Otting, Volunteer and Membership Coordinator and professional mediator of Interaction Management Associates:

DEALING WITH DIFFICULT PEOPLE

December 12, 2008 • 9 am – 4 pm • UUCP Sanctuary

This one-day course will help you manage difficult people, such as volunteers, employees, clients, coworkers and family. This course provides an overview of the theory and practice of negotiation in difficult situations, communicating with stubborn people, drawing boundaries and handling highly-emotional individuals. The course is open to the general public.

DYNAMIC • INTERACTIVE • EXPERIENTIAL • SKILL-BUILDING

While space is available, UUCP members may register for this one-day seminar at \$49 -- 1/3 the full rate. This rate is available only to UUCP members through this link: <http://www.interactionmanagementassociates.com/UUCP.html>

In addition to the discount, you can help UUCP two ways:

- **FOR UUCP's HUMAN RELATIONS AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION COMMITTEE:** To help bring more awareness to this committee and build its capacity to provide education and outreach to our community, IMA will donate \$10 for each UUCP member who registers through the link below.
- **REFER NON-MEMBERS:** We will also donate \$10 for each non-member who registers through our main page and selects 'UUCP' under the "How did you hear about us?" portion of the registration form. Send this link to your friends: www.InteractionManagementAssociates.com, tell them to go to our "Training Catalog" and select the course. Remind them to acknowledge UUCP!



Mirth and Merriment!

**Celebrate Winter Solstice
Saturday
December 20th**

7:00 PM

Festive music in the village tradition!

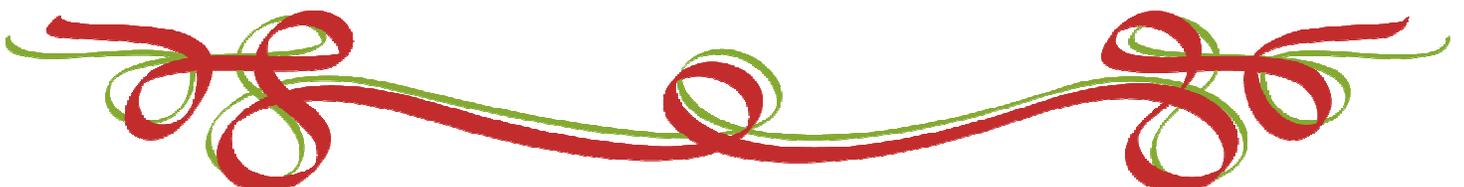
Europa
And
Bedlam Bells Morris Dancers

**\$10.00 donation per adult (17 and older)
Free: age 16 and younger**

Bring family and friends!

6:40 pm: Doors open

Sponsored by:
**Women's Spirituality Circle
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix
4027 E. Lincoln Drive, Paradise Valley
www.phoenixuu.org**



Calendar of Events...

Monday December 1 2008

7:00 PM Women's Spirituality Circle

Tuesday December 2 2008

10:00 AM UUCP Staff Meeting

6:00 PM Covenant Facilitator Meeting

6:30 PM Renovation Committee

Wednesday December 3 2008

6:00 PM ARE Committee Meeting

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

7:00 PM Covenant Group

Friday December 5 2008

9:00 AM Sanctuary Team

5:00 PM Solstice

6:30 PM Covenant Group

Saturday December 6 2008

9:00 AM Sanctuary Team

12:00 PM Choir Caroling

Sunday December 7 2008

9:00 AM Poetry Coffeehouse

9:00 AM Book Discussion Group

9:00 AM Music Rehearsal

9:00 AM Parenting Covenant Group

9:00 AM ARE Class: Finding Your Religion

10:30 AM Celebration of Life Service

10:30 AM Children's Worship

11:45 AM Holiday Craft Sale

12:00 PM Young Adult Group

12:00 PM Prepare New Day Center Meal

5:15 PM Soulful Sundown Rehearsal

6:00 PM Soulful Sundown Service

Monday December 8 2008

7:00 PM Women's Spirituality Circle

7:30 PM Campus Ministry

Tuesday December 9 2008

10:00 AM UUCP Staff Meeting

12:00 PM Covenant Group

6:30 PM UU Executive Committee

6:30 PM Covenant Group

7:00 PM Amnesty International

Wednesday December 10 2008

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

7:00 PM Covenant Group

7:00 PM Covenant Group

Thursday December 11 2008

6:00 PM Children's Ministry Committee

7:00 PM Finance Committee

Friday December 12 2008

8:00 AM HR&CM Committee Workshop

Saturday December 13 2008

6:00 PM Bridge Group

Sunday December 14 2008

8:30 AM Nominating Committee

9:00 AM Book Discussion Group

9:00 AM Lead Teacher Meeting

9:00 AM Music Rehearsal

10:30 AM Celebration of Life Service

10:30 AM Sunday School

11:45 AM Holiday Craft Sale

12:00 PM Young Adult Group

12:00 PM Social Action Committee

6:00 PM MUUvie

Monday December 15 2008

7:00 PM Women's Spirituality Circle

Tuesday December 16 2008

10:00 AM UUCP Staff Meeting

7:00 PM Green Sanctuary Committee

Wednesday December 17 2008

8:00 AM EEC Holiday Sing & Feast

6:00 PM ARE Movie Night

7:00 PM Covenant Group

Thursday December 18 2008

EEC Closed

6:30 PM Board Meeting

6:30 PM Sunday Services Committee

Friday December 19 2008

EEC Closed

Saturday December 20 2008

7:00 PM Winter Solstice

Sunday December 21 2008

9:00 AM Book Discussion Group

9:00 AM Music Rehearsal

10:30 AM Celebration of Life Service

12:00 PM Young Adult Group

12:00 PM Social Action Luncheon

12:00 PM Christmas Eve Rehearsal

Monday December 22 2008

EEC Closed

7:00 PM Women's Spirituality Circle

Tuesday December 23 2008

EEC Closed

10:00 AM UUCP Staff Meeting

12:00 PM Covenant Group

5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal setup

6:30 PM Covenant Group

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday December 24 2008

5:30 PM Christmas Eve Service

6:30 PM Holiday Reception

7:30 PM Christmas Eve Service

Thursday December 25 2008

Christmas - UUCP Closed

Friday December 26 2008

UUCP Office Closed

EEC Closed

9:00 AM Sanctuary Team

Sunday December 28 2008

9:00 AM Book Discussion Group

9:00 AM Music Rehearsal

10:30 AM Celebration of Life Service

11:45 AM No Muss No Fuss Potluck

12:00 PM Young Adult Group

12:00 PM Membership Committee

Monday December 29 2008

EEC Closed

7:00 PM Women's Spirituality Circle

Tuesday December 30 2008

EEC Closed

10:00 AM UUCP Staff Meeting

Wednesday December 31 2008

EEC Closed

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Minister: *Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray* minister@phoenixuu.org
 Minister Emeritus: *Rev. Ray Manker*
 Religious Education Director: *Kim St. Clair* redirector@phoenixuu.org
 Music Director: *Connie Jahrmarkt* musicdirector@phoenixuu.org
 Membership Volunteer Coordinator: *Kate Otting* volunteer@phoenixuu.org
 Administrator: *Heidi Parmenter* administrator@phoenixuu.org
 Custodian: *Manuel Gomez*
 Early Education Director: *Jane Armstrong* eecdirector@phoenixuu.org
 Early Education Teachers: *Doug van Der Veen, Kelly Blackson, Jane Sutton, Valerie Bailey,*
 Nursery Supervisor: *Tiffany Mendez* childcare@phoenixuu.org
 Childcare Providers: *Daniel Mendez and Geraldine Mendez*
 Office Volunteers: *Ellie Murphy, Sally Boyd, Bill Parker, Jan Wise, Bernie Hall, Sharon Hise, Julie Smart, Pauline Peverly, Larry Agle, and Tish Gauntt*
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Our Mission

Our religious community aspires to:

- Embrace diversity as we engage in the passionate pursuit of Unitarian Universalist principals;
- Share ministry that promotes lifelong spiritual growth through Service, Worship, Ritual and Education thereby inspiring lives of joy and hope;
- Grow and be effective in the greater community.

-Adopted February 1999

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