Celebration of Life
Sundays, 10:30 AM

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JAN. 4: A GIFT OF TIME
By: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray
The first of the year is a time for reflecting on our hopes for the New Year. Kathleen McGtique asks, "What will we do with this great gift of time?" Through song and reading and ritual we will ask and answer this question.

JAN. 11: IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME
By: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray
"Field of Dreams," the movie where this wisdom comes from, is one of my favorites. It's about taking risks, following your dreams, finding ways to help others find their own dreams. How is this a useful metaphor for our congregation today?

JAN. 18: KING SUNDAY: THE DAMAGING COST OF FEAR
By: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray
In his work for civil rights, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr spoke out frequently and eloquently about the need for love to overcome fear. Fear lays at the root of some of humanities worst action—particularly violence. Today, one area where a culture of fear has been used to dominate the conversation is around immigration. What are the consequences of rooting dialogue in fear, and how might we be a part of changing the conversation?

JAN. 25: “WORSHIP THAT WORKS: THEORY AND PRACTICE FOR UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS”
Guest Preacher: Reverend Kathleen Rolenz, Parish co-Minister of West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church in Rocky River, Ohio. Rev. Rolenz and her husband Rev. Wayne Arnason are the authors of the book, Worship that Works: Theory and Practice for Unitarian Universalists. The book was the result of their recent sabbatical where they visited congregations all over the country, both UU and non-UU, that are known for having dynamic, cutting edge and innovative worship.

New Member Recognition
Installation Service
January 25 4PM
Service Leaders: The Revs. Jason Shelton, Kathleen Rolenz, Diane Dowgiert, and others!
At this service, the members of UUCP will officially install Susan Frederick-Gray as our Settled Minister. This will be the "official" celebration of our shared ministry. Come and celebrate Unitarian Universalism, the power of worship to deepen our lives and nurture our work in the world, come celebrate UUCP’s mission and ministry.

Soulful Sundown Service
First Sundays, 6 PM
Jan. 4th, we’ll illuminate our 4th Principle: A free and responsible search for truth and meaning and our 4th Source: Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God’s love by loving our neighbors as ourselves.
Minister’s Musings

This reading, found in our hymnal, by the Reverend Kathleen McTigue seems particularly fitting for this New Year.

The first of January is another day dawning, the sun rising as the sun always rises, the earth moving in its rhythms, with or without our calendars to name a certain as the day of new beginning, separating the old from the new...Yet we also stand at a threshold, the new year something truly new; still unformed, leaving a stunning power in our hands:

What shall we do with this great gift of Time, this year?

Let us remember that whatever justice, whatever peace and wholeness might bloom in our world this year, we are the hearts and minds, the hands and feet, the embodiment of all the best visions of our people.

The new year can be new ground for the seeds of our dreams. Let us take the step forward together, onto new ground, planting our dreams well, faithfully, and in joy.

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

Robert Klaus
Thomas Roberts Foltz, Jr.
Jane Horswell
Gordon Woods
FrancesJohnson Bishop
Gladys Lillian Klaus
Joanlynne Davis
John Connair Cummings
Hubert Lambeth Gay, Jr.
James Lynch
James Francis Bauman
The Installation Service will be an important event in our congregation, in our city and in our district, the PSWD. As such, there will be a number of honored invitees including UU ministers from across the country, local clergy and other dignitaries. Most importantly, however, you, the congregation will be the main participant in this ceremonial installation of our minister. You are warmly invited to attend and participate.

We are especially asking for the congregation’s help for these important ways:

- Ceremonial Gifts for Reverend Susan to commemorate the grand occasion (use your creativity!).

- There will be a special reception for the congregation and invited guests that needs help.

- Home hospitality may be needed for some of our out-of-town UU ministers.

- Donations of Frequent Flyer miles would be very very welcome as it may allow us to bring in additional guest speakers.

I am sure there are talents and gifts amongst you that will greatly enrich this event and that I have not even thought of yet.

Please plan to attend on January 25th. If you have the time and willingness to share your gifts for this occasion, please contact me, or Reverend Susan.

Yours sincerely,
Jimmy Leung

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The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix invites you to celebrate with us the installation of our Minister

The Reverend Susan Frederick-Gray

Sunday, January 25, 2009 4 PM

Ministers and seminarians are invited to robe and process.

Religious educators and music directors are also invited to process.

Assemble at 3:30 PM.

A reception will follow the service.

Please RSVP in the affirmative only by Friday, January 16th to administrator@phoenixUU.org or 602-840-8400
Greetings from your Music Director!

SOULFUL SUNDOWN 1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH 6PM
Did you know that our Unitarian Universalist Congregation has a worship option other than Sunday morning?

Soulful Sundown is intimate, a lot of music, joyous and thoughtful. The band is guitars, drums, violin, clarinet and voices. This year our themes focus on our UU Principles & Sources concurrently.

Musicians who want to play in the Soulful Sundown band, contact me: musicdirector@phoenixuu.org or 480 970 8807.

ANNOUNCING: SONG LEADING WORKSHOP LED BY JASON SHELTON – JANUARY 24TH.
Workshop will be in the Sanctuary starting at 9am.

Reverend Jason Shelton: composer, arranger, conductor, singer, multi-instrumentalist, workshop/retreat leader and Director of Music at the First Unitarian Universalist Church in Nashville, TN. He holds a BA in Classics - Saint Meinrad College. He spent three years as a Franciscan brother in Chicago. His spiritual journey took him further than the theological and institutional boundaries of the Catholic Church would allow him to go. He left the friars and moved home to Nashville.

At a friend’s invitation, Jason visited the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashville in the spring of 1998. He felt an instant connection there, and he was hired as Director of Music that summer. In the spring of 2003 he completed an M. Div. from Vanderbilt Divinity School, and was ordained to the Unitarian Universalist ministry in May of 2004.

In his ministry, Jason starts with the premise that “what we sing is who we are.” As a composer, conductor and song leader he is fluent in a wide variety of styles, which he feels is important as a musical and spiritual discipline. Jason believes that we live in a world where our diversity can be celebrated, where the music of many peoples intertwine and offer new possibilities for the expression of our deepest values and commitments.

Keep singing!
Connie Jahrmarkt

From Your Director of Religious Education:

SPIRIT CIRCLE AND JOY
Every Children’s Ministry and Adult Religious Education Committee meeting begins much like other meetings here at the UUCP: a short reading, chalice lighting and check-in. My check-in question to committee members in December was “what brought you the most joy in 2008?” Responses ranged from a renewed hope for our country despite some tough economic times, our children, or a grandchild being born. The response that gave ME greatest joy, however, came from a new member of the UUCP and the Children’s Ministry Committee: “This community and what it has done for my family is what has brought me the greatest joy this year.”

I must say, I echo this member’s sentiment. What brings me the greatest joy is the impact this community has had on my family in 2008. Andy’s involvement with the Ministerial Search Committee, which brought us Rev. Susan; Mitchell finding a place he can call his own in YRUU; Tommy’s enthusiasm for anything that has a chalice on it or is tie-dyed!

Beyond my family, though, my heart leaps every Sunday when we have 40 children in “Spirit Circle” singing favorite UU songs, reciting our children’s covenant, and sharing our joys and sorrows. For those of you who never follow the children out of the sanctuary after Together Time, you are missing a moment of unadulterated joy as our Pre-kindergarten and kindergarteners belt out the “Johnny Appleseed Song” without prompting, our 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th graders volunteer to lead us in the children’s covenant, and all of the children share their hearts’ joys and sorrows.
Adult Religious Education...

"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

"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)

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 February 7, 2009, 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

Ten Spiritual Tuesdays Returns to UUCP this January!

The Adult RE Committee received tremendous positive feedback about this series of Tuesday evening workshops designed to help adults experience, develop and to deepen spiritual practices while honoring the theological diversity in our congregation. This curriculum, “Spirit in Practice,” consists of ten sessions that can either stand-alone or be taken as the entire series. The classes will be held on Tuesday nights at 6:00 p.m. in Room B on the following dates:

January 6, 13, 20, 27
February 1, 8, 15 and 22
March 10

We are currently recruiting facilitators, and we hope to have them all committed to a particular date and session soon. The sessions are as follows (please note that sessions 2-9 may not be presented in the same sequence listed below:

Workshop 1: Toward a Rich and Meaningful Unitarian Universalist Spirituality
Workshop 2: Personal Spiritual Practices
Workshop 3: Communal Worship Practices
Workshop 4: Spiritual Partnerships
Workshop 5: Mind Practices
Workshop 6: Body Practices
Workshop 7: Soul Practices
Workshop 8: Life Practices
Workshop 9: Justice Practices
Workshop 10: Looking Back and Moving Forward
Children’s Ministry...

Young Adult Update
Our Young Adult/Campus Ministry group (YACM) had fourteen members attend a weekend retreat at Arcosanti, a model self-sustaining community an hour north of Phoenix. The weekend was filled with opportunities to worship, explore our UU identity, make deeper connections with each other and to enjoy a lovely natural setting. Our YACM group is comprised of 18-35 year olds and some allies (those older than 35), and it meets every Sunday at 12:15 a.m. in room C. Our campus ministry group will resume its meetings when ASU is back in session in mid-January.

Are Movie Night: Taxi to the Darkside
Using the torture and death in 2002 of an innocent Afghan taxi driver as the touchstone, this film examines changes after 9/11 in U.S. policy toward suspects in the war on terror. Soldiers, their attorneys, one released detainee, U.S. Attorney John Yoo, news footage and photos tell a story of abuse at Bagram Air Base, Abu Ghraib, and Guantanamo Bay. Many speakers lament the loss of American ideals in pursuit of security.

Date: Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2009
Time: 6:00 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 p.m.)
Place: Johnson Room.
Cost: $5 suggested donation - refreshments served.

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

Upcoming Events
Jan. 4 - 10:30 a.m. - Children’s Worship (Pre-k-6th Grade) - “The Story of Stuff” movie and scavenger hunt - Johnson Room

Jan. 11 - Sunday school class - (1st-6th grade begin in sanctuary)

Jan. 16 - 7:00 p.m. - “All Ages No-Talent Talent Show”

Jan. 18 - Sunday school class - (1st-6th grade begin in sanctuary)

Jan. 24 - 9:30 a.m. UU Pals Hike

Jan. 25 - Sunday school class (1st-6th grade begin in sanctuary; 4:00 p.m. - Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray’s Installation - childcare provided

YRUU Sponsors All Ages No Talent Talent Show/Coffeehouse

Where: UUCP Sanctuary

When: Friday, January 16, 2009

Time: 7-9 p.m.

January Children’s Ministry Shorts

Children’s Worship: “The Story of Stuff”
Jan. 4, 2009, at 10:30 A.M.
This delightful and informative short movie reminds us how our actions impact our interdependent web! We will have some short service elements, will watch the movie, and then will set-out on a UUCP “Story of Stuff” scavenger hunt. Children’s Worship is for children in kindergarten through sixth grades; parents are always welcome to stay and enjoy the fun.

YRUU creates a community event through donations.

YRUU Sponsors All Ages No Talent Talent Show/Coffeehouse

What: All Ages No Talent Talent Show/Coffeehouse

Where: UUCP Sanctuary

When: Friday, January 16, 2009

Time: 7-9 p.m.
SUNDAY SCHOOL NOTES
From Teachers Lenore and Geraldine - Pre-k-Kindergarten
The January theme is We Wonder: Our church is a place to wonder and ask questions. Together the Pre K/K class has already explored rainbows and snow. This month we'll learn about other things that make us wonder; stars, the moon, imagination and dreams.

From Teacher Jen - 1st-2nd Grade
This month we will be exploring the concepts of prejudice and racism. We will also take some time to make musical instruments and play together.

From Teacher Hannah - 3rd-4th Grade
This January, the third and fourth grade class will be continuing their study of UU Superheroes! We've had a great first half of the year, and this month we'll be learning about three strong UU women and their important contributions: Clara Barton and her work with the Red Cross, Beatrix Potter and her literary accomplishments, and Olympia Brown and her critical work for the advancement of women both within UUism and in society.

From Teacher Michelle - 5th-6th Grade
Hey 5th and 6th graders! Get ready for January! This month, we'll be talking about some pretty cool things. We'll be asking the question "Why do we go to church?" We'll also be learning about Outstanding UUs, like Susan B. Anthony and Ralph Waldo Emerson. After that, we're going to look at change and how it affects us everyday and what we, ourselves, can do to change things around us. And, as always, there will be arts and crafts! Can't wait to see you!

Many, many thank thanks to all the people who purchased books from the UUEEC whether for gifts or to donate. There were over 80 books donated by the UUCP and UUEEC to Booker T. Washington from the sale. On top of that, the UUEEC received many new books and $1,000 added to our fundraising goal. It was a wonderful community effort and a lot of fun. A special thank you to UUCP members who helped with the Book Fair during the week….we could not have done it without your help!

UUEEC enrollment for the 2009-10 school year will begin February 2. Enrollment forms will be available on our website www.uueec.org after January 15, 2009. If you have a child who will be 2, 3 or 4 before September 1, 2009 please call Director Jane for a tour of the Preschool. We also have a wonderful Transitional Kindergarten for children who are just not quite ready for the rigors of Kindergarten but need more structure. This program is for children who may have turned 5 already or will turn 5 in the fall of the year. For more information, please feel free to call and come by for a tour of the program. Returning families, alumni families and church members will begin enrolling Monday, February 2, 2009.

Jane Armstrong
UUEEC Director
480-710-7004

Children are our most valuable natural resource.

Herbert Hoover
Unicare

“In spite of illness, in spite even of the archenemy sorrow, one can remain alive long past the usual date of disintegration if one is unafraid of change, insatiable in intellectual curiosity, interested in big things, and happy in small ways.” Edith Wharton

As we celebrate the lives and mark the deaths of three longtime Unitarian women we will always remember their intellect, strength in the face of adversity and continued wonder at the world they helped to make a better place. Our love and sympathy go out to the families of Mary Grobe, who died on November 25, Ruth Amster who died on December 6th, and Thelma Davis, who died on December 11th.

We are all still reveling in the early Christmas presents of the returned health of Barbara Voth, the miracle kid, and Don Moran, the comeback kid. May the New Year bring more of the same for both of them. Susan Morris is just recovering from hip surgery and we are keeping our fingers crossed that all the docs will be real proud of their efforts.

More good news from the Weir family. Pam, who is a government major at Smith, was honored with 25 other Smith students with a position in a Washington D.C. study program for the summer and fall. All our best, Pam.

A huge round of applause for the COM and YRUU kids who gave up some extra sleep on a Saturday morning to help scrape, paint and cleanup one of the buildings at Booker T. A more efficient effort has never been seen.

Facing our challenges together in community,
Julie Smart, Unicare Chair

In the next two pages you will find the “Unicare Emergency Record” on one side and “Memorial Service Directives” on the other. We urge you to fill these forms out and mail or return them to the office at UU. It could be very helpful to the Minister or Office Administrator in case of an emergency. All information will be kept in the strictest confidence.

Learn & Support Cancer Group

Paradise Valley United Methodist Church and the Wellness Community invite anyone concerned about cancer to come for these FREE MONTHLY “Learn and Support” groups. Each meeting will include a professional speaker discussing an issue significant to cancer, including current research, genomics, clinical studies, nutrition, care giving, and more. Dates: 1/15/09, 2/19/09, 3/19/09, 4/16/09, 5/21/09, 6/18/09. Time: 6pm - 8pm
Memorial Service Directives

The following directives, provided voluntarily by a member or friend of the Congregation is kept on file by the UUCP administrator in the UUCP office.

The following directives were prepared by:

Name______________________________  Date________________________

Do you want a memorial service at UUCP?____________________________
If so, do you have a preference about the following?

Flowers__________________________________________________________

Music___________________________________________________________

Readings_________________________________________________________

Additional Requests______________________________________________

Do you want a reception at UUCP?_______________________________
Please specify any details__________________________________________

Request for interment of ashes in UUCP Memorial Garden. (Please refer to Memorial Garden Interment Application available in the Administrative Office)

If you wish, please attach directives for your Obituary to this form.

I have provided the above information and understand that my wishes will be carried out by those to whom this information is entrusted to the best of their ability.

Signature______________________________

Date________________________
The following information, provided voluntarily by a member or friend of the Congregation for emergency situations, is kept on file by the UUCP administrator in the UUCP office.

Name____________________   Phone___________________
E-mail____________________

Emergency Contacts
Name_______________________   Relationship__________
Phone (H)___________________   Phone (W)____________

Name_______________________   Relationship__________
Phone (H)___________________   Phone (W)____________

For Access to Living Quarters
Name_______________________   Phone___________________

Contact for Pet Care
Name_______________________   Phone___________________

Physician(s)
Name_______________________   Phone___________________
Name_______________________   Phone___________________

Allergies to Food or Medications
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

Keep a List of Current Medications and Dosage on your refrigerator

I have provided the above information and give my permission for its use in case of emergency.
Signature________________________________________
Date_____________________________________________

(You may mail this form to the above address or bring it with you when you attend Sunday service.)
Social Action Committee

News

NEW DAY UPDATE
Katie Raife will take over the duties of lead coordinator of the New Day Family Shelter dinners. Katie has been a consistent volunteer and is looking forward to working with the many UUCP volunteers who cook, serve, bake brownies and participate in the art project. Lydia Yanak will continue to assist as she has in past years. Heather will take a back seat after many wonderful and gratifying years as lead coordinator.

The art project under the direction of Carla Dunlap and Bev Spiars, continues to grow and thrive. Many children are eager to learn and create with their guidance and that of COA volunteers and their parents. Happy children’s faces are worth a thousand dollars each!

A special thanks to the MANY, MANY volunteers who continue to participate in the cooking, serving, and art projects. Volunteering at the New Day is contagious so make sure you sign up on the board soon.

Social Action meeting - January 11 - annex B - 12:15 pm

SOCIAL ACTION LUNCHEON - JANUARY 18
Earle Canfield, founder and director of American-Nepal Students’ and Women’s Educational Relief (ANSWER), is the speaker on January 18. ANSWER Nepal sponsors 400 students of the lowest caste in Nepal, sending them to the best schools and colleges in order to break the poverty cycle. ANSWER Nepal has no administrative or overhead expenses. This past year UUCP began sponsoring a young female student for $250 per year. All are invited to learn more about our student, the program and Nepal. Enjoy a delicious lunch for a suggested donation of $5.

Coming in February The Dream Act, a play about hopes and dreams by James Garcia.

Continue to return UUSC Guest at Your Table boxes in January.

Many thanks to Piya Jacobs and Desert View School for their generous donations to our three holiday projects. Decorated boxes and bags of books for Booker T., personal care items for ICM and baby items for New Day filled the Social Action tables. You are awesome!

GOING GREEN ONE STEP AT A TIME

By Susan Leung

COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE
We have garnered enough support from the congregation and the schools to develop UUCP as a pick-up site for local produce through a community supported agriculture program. If you are interested and have not signed up yet, there is still time to let the planners know. Email the Green Sanctuary Committee at green@phoenixuu.org.

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON GOT DRESSED UP
Thanks to all the volunteers – Julie S., Linda B., Barbara C., Todd C., Nancy C., Emily C., Michael C., Jaynn T., Jan P., Stephan S., Daniel, Briana N., Kelia N., Kaleena, Laurie A., Asha A., and Philip D. – for the hours of scraping, painting, and gardening. Special thanks to Sandra Lynch and the Pauks for assisting with the coordination of this event. In the new year, we will be working with Booker T. in developing more gardening and composting (traditional and earthworms) so contact Susan Leung (sbleung@yahoo.com) if you would like to help.

A GREEN KITCHEN
We will also be working with the Booker T. staff on greening their food service procedures. We hope to implement the use of compostable plates and regular flatware, rather than styrofoam plates and plasticware. Lydia Yanak collected the following tips from GreenAppleKitchen.com that you can use to green your kitchen:

• Bamboo Kitchen Accessories
  Bamboo is one of the earth’s fastest growing plants. It needs no replanting, grows without fertilizers or pesticides and has a growth cycle of three to five years. Next time you’re in the market for a new cutting board, platter or cooking utensil, try bamboo.

• Hemp Kitchen Textiles
  Need a new apron, kitchen towel or oven mitt, why not try hemp.
Hemp is an ecological alternative to cotton. Cotton is one of the most environmentally destructive agricultural crops, annually using over 275 million pounds of pesticides in the US alone.

- Pressure Cookers: If you eat a healthy diet and like to prepare whole grains, beans, or healthy soups and stews, these foods can take a very long time to prepare. Using a pressure cooker takes an average of 1/3 the cooking time of conventional methods and saves up to 70% of the energy normally consumed during cooking. You’ll also preserve more vitamins and essential nutrients.

From the Nominating Committee

At our annual meeting in May, the Congregation will elect several new leaders for next year. The Nominating Committee is beginning the process of identifying nominees for positions on the Board, the Nominating Committee and the Committee on Ministry. We welcome your own personal interest and your suggestions of members of UUCP you would like to see in these leadership positions. Please call or speak with one of us!

Susan Goldsmith, chair
Sally Boyd
Gary Ezzell
Jeff Newman
Pauline Peverly
Lydia Yanak

Sanctuary Team News

On December 5, the Sanctuary Team completed the removal of the Membership Exhibit and installed the simple, elegant decorations in honor of the Christmas season. We are grateful to the team members who participated, but we missed the electrical expertise of Sandy Thomson, who was visiting her family in Minnesota.

In January, the Sanctuary Team will be hanging an exciting new exhibit: The first annual (we hope) exhibit of Artists of the Black Community/AZ (ABC/AZ) will be hung on January 3, 2009. This organization was established through the efforts of one of our long-term members, Dr. Eugene Grigsby, whose work will be represented in the display.

Dr. Grigsby has been a tireless advocate for the recognition of African American art and the artistic contributions of people of color. He has encouraged many other artists in their work and the organization he founded has been particularly active in establishing scholarships for young black people interested in the arts.

We look forward to this exhibit with anticipation. Please be sure to see it at UUCP during January and February. More information about the artists will be available after the exhibit has been hung.

Jan Wise and Joan Roberts
Finance Update

Well, folks, you'll just have to wait until the upcoming Congregational Meeting (Sun., Feb. 1) for a complete financial report on the first six months of our fiscal year (July 1-June 30). But the draft statements for July 1 to Oct. 31, submitted at our committee meeting Dec. 11, indicate that we have been satisfactorily on budget to that point.

During the last week in January, you can start looking in the mailbox for your end-of-year contribution statement for tax purposes. If you have any questions or concerns about your statement, please contact the administrator, Heidi Parmenter, in the UUCP office (602-840-8400).

We know it isn't always easy to maintain your pledge commitments in these difficult economic times, and Committee members asked especially that we send our appreciation to those of you who've kept up to date so faithfully.

A very happy, healthy new year to one and all. Let's hope 2009 will bring a much rosier financial picture to the entire country.

Ellie Murphy, for the Finance Committee; Mary Dokes, chair

UUCP Financial Update

Fiscal Year - July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009
(Operating & EEC)

as of October, 2008

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Renovation Committee

Update

The Renovation Committee continues to envision a building that supports this vibrant community’s vision and mission. We have scheduled educational discussions in January (11th, 18th and 25th after service) in preparation for the Congregational Meeting on February 1st. Elsewhere in this issue, you’ll see the motions that we’ll be considering at the Feb. 1st meeting. Some background on the project aspects:

We are currently focused on foundational/environmental aspects of the project; specifically:

- Dust Control - We recently learned that the Town of Paradise Valley requires us to improve the Northwest parking lot due to the effect that dust plays on our daily environment. The Town requirement reminds us of our desire and obligation to “green-up.” Given the increased traffic that area has seen in recent months, I think we can all agree that we want to avoid any dust-ups with The Town.

- 1965 Annex doors/windows and fire sprinklers and alarm throughout - The windows and doors that now grace the main portion of the campus highlight the deterioration of the ’65 Annex (where our Sunday RE meets as well as where UUEEC and Kids Kamp share space). The primary needs in this space are doors and windows to address security and energy efficiency. It is also time that we address a lingering safety issue and install fire safety equipment throughout the campus.

- Sewer system – Everyone’s favorite project is connecting to the City of Phoenix sewer system (what … this wasn’t at the top of your list?!). For some time now, we have been limping along on two rapidly deteriorating septic systems. Maintenance on these systems is increasingly challenging and we are again reminded of our desire to reduce the environmental impact of our campus. The septic systems will require replacement in the not too distant future and we have a fantastic (and not necessarily open-ended) opportunity to tie-in to the Phoenix sewer system. The sewer requires a major excavation down to the Southeast corner of our property and we are negotiating with our neighbor on the temporary construction easement.

We recently met with Robert Porter (our construction contractor) and Doug Sydnor (architect) to review updated, preliminary estimates for this work. That review allowed us to recommend to the Board, the motions to be considered during on Feb. 1st. During our January meetings, we hope to be able to bring everyone up to speed on what our options are moving forward. Many people (committees, boards, contributors, etc…) have been preparing for this work for a very long time, beginning with the Congregation chartering a Universal Accessibility Committee some five years ago. The plan addresses not only accessibility, but supports our Green Sanctuary efforts in many ways. We heard from so many during Rev. Susan’s startup weekend, that progress on this project would be clear evidence that this next chapter in our shared ministry has been successful. We are poised to make these plans and dreams reality. It will take personal and community commitment and we can build the momentum that can transform that commitment into action. Please contact us at renovation@phoenixxuu.org with any of your questions or concerns.

The Renovation Committee
Renovation Committee

Motions for Congregational Meeting

The Renovation Committee plans to propose 4 motions at the Congregational Meeting on February 1, 2009. The motions have been approved for presentation and endorsed by the Board of Trustees. The text of the 4 motions are:

Motion #1 Conditions for Funding Renovation Projects

a. The Congregation requires that the borrowing of funds for completion of UUCP Renovation Projects shall be accomplished under the following conditions:

1. A Congregational vote must approve the terms of the loan
2. The Lending Guidelines of the UUA Building Program (http://www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/buildingloans/27516.shtml) shall be followed where applicable and any deviations clearly identified
3. A detailed financial projection plan showing the source of the loan payments must be documented
4. A cash reserve of at least 18 months of loan payments must exist and be maintained until 18 months from loan end
5. The UUCP Foundation must be offered the right of first refusal for making the loan
6. The requirements of the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, or other contractual agreements must be satisfied.

b. A Capital Campaign will be conducted in the 2009-10 fiscal year to seek contributions to fund the building improvements approved by the Congregation

Motion #2 Upgrade of Northwest Parking Lot, Sign, 1965 Annex Doors and Windows, Water and Electrical service, and Fire Alarms & Sprinklers

The Congregation authorizes the Renovation Committee to prepare a detailed proposal for vote at the May 2009 Congregational Meeting for the renovation of northwest parking lot, sign, 1965 Annex doors and windows, water and electrical service, and fire Alarms & sprinklers for the 1961 classroom wing and the 1965 annex. The estimated cost of this project is $874,678.20. The proposal shall include a funding plan, detailed cost estimate, and definition of the scope of work.

Motion #3 Add Installation of Sewer

The Congregation authorizes the Renovation Committee to prepare a detailed proposal for vote at the May 2009 Congregational Meeting that adds:

a. Fire Alarm and Sprinklers in Sanctuary ($83,765)
b. Masonry wall at northwest corner of property ($9735)
c. Site wall at Southeast corner of property ($17,233.70 - Clearview HOA pays remaining 2/3)
d. Electrical issues in chiller pit (tbd)
e. North courtyard upgrades (tbd)
f. Parking canopies over handicapped spaces in northwest lot ($13,200)
g. Northeast parking lot extension and reconfiguring (tbd)

The proposal shall include a funding plan, detailed cost estimate and definition of the scope of work.

Motion #4 Add Other proposed upgrades

The Congregation authorizes the Renovation Committee to prepare a detailed proposal for vote at the May 2009 Congregational Meeting that adds:

a. Fire Alarm and Sprinklers in Sanctuary ($83,765)
b. Masonry wall at northwest corner of property ($9735)
c. Site wall at Southeast corner of property ($17,233.70 - Clearview HOA pays remaining 2/3)
d. Electrical issues in chiller pit (tbd)
e. North courtyard upgrades (tbd)
f. Parking canopies over handicapped spaces in northwest lot ($13,200)
g. Northeast parking lot extension and reconfiguring (tbd)

Respectfully submitted,
Don Weir

2008-9 Chair
Renovation Committee
Partner Church Visit - Many Happy Memories!

This October the Partner Church Committee, on behalf of UUCP, hosted the first-ever visit to the U.S. by members of our partner church in Szekelyudvarhely, Transylvania/Romania. Rev. Domokos (“Domi”) Rusz and his wife Eva, and the congregation president Gyula Littasi and his wife Csilla spent nearly three weeks with us. To sum up—WOW! We could not have had a more positive experience.

Here are some highlights of their visit.

After a very long flight, which for three out of the four was their first-ever airplane flight, they arrived at Sky Harbor without incident. The visit was off to a great start. They took a driving tour of the southwest with Ernie Garcia and Paula Kulina, including Sedona, Grand Canyon, Monument Valley, southern Utah, and Las Vegas. Their favorite part of the trip was seeing the different colored rocks and cliffs in southern Utah. They also saw a real cowboy herding cows and persuaded him to pose for photographs.

They spent a weekend in Tucson, hosted by the UU Congregation of NW Tucson. While in the area they toured the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum, courtesy of Emie Garcia and Ellie Anderla. They especially enjoyed seeing the free flight of birds and seeing the reptile exhibit. UUCP hosted the Western Potluck. The four learned some square dancing moves and Domi sang a campfire song. Thanks to the many volunteers that made this event a success!

We had a very special Sunday service. Domi preached his first sermon in English, titled “Guiding Lights.” It was a touching acknowledgment of the role that UUCP plays in our local community, and of the role we have played in the development of their Szekelyudvarhely church. Thanks to the efforts of Connie Jahrmarkt and the choir, we enjoyed special music. The choir sang “Spirit of Life,” the traditional partner-church anthem, in Hungarian; Eva and Csilla were invited to sit with the choir. During the service Domi presented a gift to the congregation: a wooden kopjafa (pronounced “ko-pi-a-fa”). Kopjafas are a symbol of Transylvanian cultural identity. Traditionally they were used to commemorate a person’s life, and the patterns carved on the pole narrated the life story of the deceased. More recently, however, kopjafas are erected all over Transylvania to mark historic events or significant anniversaries. Our beautiful oak kopjafa, carved by a Unitarian in Transylvania, symbolizes our everlasting friendship. The kopjafa is placed in the front of our sanctuary—please view it up close and read the inscription plate.

UUCP presented the visitors with two special gifts. Rev. Domi received a hand-made stole, and Gyula was given a UUCP banner for the Szekelyudvarhely congregation. Thanks to Libby Walker for her beautiful artistry, so reflective of our southwest environment.

Our visitors spent a week participating in UUCP activities and seeing local sights, including:

- The Desert Botanical Garden and Heard Museum, courtesy of Lani Comp and Judy Lambert
- Women’s Spirituality, Board of Trustees, Social Action, Religious Education, Coming of Age and Unicare meetings, where they learned about how our church life is organized
- Desert View Learning Center and Early Education Cooperative tour
- Local ministers’ reception at Rev. Susan’s home
- Individual UUCP members opened their homes to our visitors, providing not only home hospitality (Ray and Gretchen Manker, Piya Jacob, Lani Comp and Sandy Lynch) but giving them a taste of American culture and lifestyles. Gary Bealls gave them a tour of his art studio; Jane Armstrong gave them a horseback ride; and Charlotte Carl-Mitchell shared her Star Wars/Star Trek memorabilia collection. They sang Russian folk songs at the Perlmans, and charmed Ann Ciemny’s parents over dinner.
It is gratifying to see that the goal of the visit—to strengthen the relationship between our two congregations—seems to have been achieved. If you were fortunate enough to have met our visitors and would like to remain in touch with them, we are happy to provide you with their addresses.

What’s next? The Partner Church Committee will be mulling this question over the coming months. Perhaps a visit to Transylvania…? If you are interested in being part of this conversation, please see one of the committee members: Paula Kulina, Ernie Garcia, Ray Manker, Gretchen Manker, Judy Lambert, Marcy Kiefer and Ellie Anderla.

Carolining a Rousing Success

On Saturday, December 6, 22 people gathered at the church, then split into three groups and went to sing to some of our homebound and ill members. The singers were Kathleen Baughman, Paula Adkins, Anna Bjornson, Kat Crabtree, Connie and Richard Jahrmarkt, Donna Featherston with Ryan, Reed and Alec; Laida Restrepo and Vickie, Melinda Iyer with her daughter, Adra, Julie Smart, Jerry Whalin, Heidi and Dante Singer, Sally McDade, Bill Snowden, Smoot and Charlotte Carl-Mitchell. The people we went to see were Barbara Voth, Margaret Herrick, Lucienne & Bob Rusconi, Charlie Lynch, Ricky Michaud, Flynn Kelly, Ken & Jeanne Croissant, Don Moran, Helen Votichenko, Thor and Shirley Anderson, Frank & Rosie Herman, and Ed Grobe. Then after caroling we went over to Bill Snowden’s and Joan Gale’s for a party. Thank you to all who took part.

The Poetry Coffeehouse

The Poetry Coffeehouse will hold our first meeting of the new year on Sunday, Jan. 4, at 9:00 AM in Annex Room C. Our theme will be "Outlook for the New Year," meaning poems that have to do with things like New Year’s Resolutions, goals, perspectives on the future, and so on. If you have a poem on some other subject, that’s fine, too. Bring poetry of your own to share or that of a favorite author. Any writing of poetic quality is welcome!

We hope to see you bright and early on the 4th!

John Williamson
Facilitator
480-607-9726
Circle Dinners

Circle dinners are continuing in the congregation for January, February, March, April, and May before we take a break for the summer. These dinners are a popular UU activity in many congregations across the country. They have been part of the Phoenix Congregation’s life for many years. These are small dinners of 6 to 10 people that bring together new and old friends. The host provides the main dish and then assigns dishes for guests to bring. We welcome new participants. We also need hosts.

In our congregation they are held on the third Saturday of each month in members’ homes. We would love to have more guests and hosts for these monthly get togethers. If you want to join, please call Mary Wilber at 480-473-1150 or email phuucircle@yahoo.com.

Bridge Group

The Bridge Group will hold its monthly meeting on January 10, 2009, at 7:00 P.M. in the Johnson Room. All interested players are invited to attend. If you are not on the e-mail or phone list please contact Sandy Thomson at sjthompson@earthlink.net or Sally Boyd at Sboydwbay@aol.com. All are welcome.

Outdoor Group

It’s the New Year! Time to put your right foot forward followed by your left foot and hike along with the Outdoor group on one of our upcoming hikes. We’ll start out easy just in case you want to ease into it!

HIKE: REACH 11 HIKING AREA
Date: January 10, 2009
Meeting Time: 9:00 to leave at 9:30
Meeting Place: Starbucks on the southwest corner of Tatum and Bell Hiking Distance: 5 miles
Rating: easy - a packed trail with some paving
Leaders: Frank Ashton and Sally Boyd frankphnx@earthlink.net or 602-996-4276

HIKE: FIRST WATER TRAIL-HEAD TO CANYON LAKE IN SUPERSTITION MOUNTAINS
Date: January 24, 2009
Meeting Time: 7:30 a.m. to leave at 8:00 a.m.
Meeting Place: McDonald’s at Southern and Country Club in Mesa
Hiking Distance: 8 miles
Elevation Change: 1200 to 1500 feet
Rating: Moderately Difficult
Leaders: Ron and Laura Rohlfing theronster@cox.net or 480-730-0623

Traveling 2nd Fridays 2009

Mark your calendars the 2nd Friday of each month (EXCEPT FOR APRIL - 1st FRIDAY DUE TO EASTER). It is held 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.

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!
Calendar of Events...

**Thursday January 1 2009**
Happy New Year!

**Friday January 2 2009**
6:30 PM Covenant Group

**Saturday January 3 2009**
10:00 AM Sanctuary Team

**Sunday January 4 2009**
9:00 AM Poetry Coffeehouse
9:00 AM Book Discussion Group
9:00 AM Music Rehearsal
10:30 AM Celebration of Life Service
10:30 AM Children’s Worship
12:00 PM Young Adult Group
12:00 PM Prepare New Day Center Meal
5:00 PM Soulful Sundown Rehearsal
6:00 PM Soulful Sundown Service

**Monday January 5 2009**
7:00 PM Women’s Spirituality Circle

**Tuesday January 6 2009**
10:00 AM UUCP Staff Meeting
6:00 PM ARE Class: Spirit Practices
6:00 PM Covenant Facilitator Meeting

**Wednesday January 7 2009**
6:00 PM ARE Committee Meeting
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal
7:00 PM Covenant Group

**Thursday January 8 2009**
6:00 PM Children’s Ministry Committee
7:00 PM Finance Committee

**Friday January 9 2009**
7:00 PM Traveling Second Friday

**Saturday January 10 2009**
8:00 AM EEC Work Day
12:00 PM Choir Retreat
6:00 PM Bridge Group

**Sunday January 11 2009**
8:30 AM Nominating Committee
9:00 AM Book Discussion Group
9:00 AM ARE Class: Parenting Beyond Belief

**Wednesday January 14 2009**
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal
7:00 PM Covenant Group

**Thursday January 15 2009**
6:30 PM Sunday Services Committee

**Friday January 16 2009**
6:30 PM Fab Friday

**Sunday January 18 2009**
9:00 AM Book Discussion Group
9:00 AM Lead Teacher Meeting
9:00 AM ARE Class: Parenting Beyond Belief
9:00 AM Music Rehearsal
9:00 AM New UU Class
10:30 AM Celebration of Life Service
12:00 PM Young Adult Group
12:00 PM Social Action Luncheon
12:00 PM Renovation Open Meeting
**Monday January 19 2009**
7:00 PM Women’s Spirituality Circle

**Tuesday January 20 2009**
10:00 AM UUCP Staff Meeting
6:00 PM ARE Class: Spirit Practices
7:00 PM Green Sanctuary Committee

**Wednesday January 21 2009**
5:30 PM Choir Prep
6:00 PM ARE Movie Night
7:00 PM Covenant Group
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday January 22 2009**
6:00 PM Family Sing-Along
6:30 PM Board Meeting

**Friday January 23 2009**
3:00 PM Installation Rehearsal

**Saturday January 24 2009**
9:00 AM Song Leading Workshop
9:30 AM Installation Rehearsal
5:00 PM New UU Pot Luck

**Sunday January 25 2009**
9:00 AM Book Discussion Group
9:00 AM ARE Class: Parenting Beyond Belief
9:00 AM Music Rehearsal
9:00 AM Parenting Covenant Group
10:30 AM Celebration of Life Service
10:30 AM Sunday School
12:00 PM Young Adult Group
12:00 PM Social Action Committee
12:00 PM Renovation Open Meeting
6:00 PM MUUVie

**Monday January 26 2009**
7:00 PM Women’s Spirituality Circle

**Tuesday January 27 2009**
10:00 AM UUCP Staff Meeting
6:00 PM ARE Class: Spirit Practices
6:00 PM Covenant Group

**Wednesday January 28 2009**
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal
7:00 PM Covenant Group

**Thursday January 29 2009**
6:30 PM ARE Committee Meeting
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal
7:00 PM Covenant Group

**Friday January 30 2009**
6:30 PM Covenant Facilitator Meeting

**Saturday January 31 2009**
Grigsby Memorial (Time TBD)
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 ecedirector@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
Board of Trustees: board@phoenixuu.org
President: Sarah Carlson Vice President: Tim Tilton
Treasurer: Smoot Carl-Mitchell
Trustees: Sandy Weir, Donna Featherston, Susan Morris, Van Lockwood, Cleo Van der Veen, and Gary Ezzell

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