



HORIZONS Journal of the  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF PHOENIX  
4027 East Lincoln Drive, Paradise Valley, AZ, 85253

September 2009

*A Welcoming Congregation*

## Celebrations of Life

Sundays 10:30 AM

### SEPT. 6: A LABOR OF LOVE

Service Leader: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

Many tasks occupy our time and attention, from the laundry to bills to our jobs inside and outside the home. What are the things we do not because we have to but because they have great meaning to us? How do we distinguish our various labors and make sure we are making time for the ones that really matter?

### SEPT. 13: INGATHERING WATER COMMUNION

Service Leader: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

Every year on the Sunday after Labor Day, we celebrate the ingathering of our community. You are invited to bring water from a place that is meaningful or sacred to you. Whether it be water from a river you camped near, tears you gathered at the loss of a loved one, or even the precious water from a home faucet, together we will join our waters to symbolize the way we meet together to create a community that nourishes and renews us throughout the year.

### TWO SERVICES SCHEDULE STARTS 9/20/09 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM

### SEPT. 20: BALANCING WORD AND DEED

Service Leader: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

Unitarian Universalism is a faith that puts a primary focus on creating justice in the world. Our values affirm the ideals of a peaceful, compassionate, equitable world. So, how do we actually live these values? We will look at how we better live who we say we are and what we value both in our congregational and personal lives.

### SEPT. 27: AT-ONE-MENT

Service Leader: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

In Judaism, Yom Kippur is the day of atonement. It is a time for seeking forgiveness for transgressions in order to start a year anew. This annual celebration and the forgiveness work that leads up to it is important work for all of us.

## Is the *UUCP Compass*

## Directing Your Weekly

## Calendar?

Our new weekly e-newsletter, the *UUCP Compass*, has been emailed every other Friday through the summer. Have you been receiving it in your inbox? If not, then maybe you have been picking up your weekly copy in the lobby on Sundays? Neither? Well, then, please do contact the office and make sure we have your correct email address in the system. Email not your thing? Then make sure to pick up a hard copy in the lobby. Sorry, but no snail mail service is available for the *UUCP Compass*.

## Horizons Going Electronic.

## This May Be Your Last

## Hard Copy!

Effective with the October issue, the *Horizons Journal* will be emailed. Only those who specifically request to continue receiving hard copies will receive them in the mail.

### ***In this issue...***

Minister's Musings...	2
From the Board...	3-4
From the Staff...	5
Children's Ministry...	6
Adult Religious Education...	7
Committee News...	8-10
September Calendar of Events...	11

## Minister's Musings

First, a confession: I am not psychic. However, I predict that this year is going to be vital in the life of our congregation. And I predict that the ministry we do this year will radically shape our future for the better. Together, I see us taking risks to step out and define who we are and cast a vision that will challenge us to take our faith and our congregation more seriously--because we will see clearly how important our work as a religious community is. I also predict that this conversation about what we value and who we seek to be will lead us to grow in depth and spiritual maturity, to touch the essence of what our lives and our community are about.

This conversation will be occurring on a couple of fronts. First, we will be having facilitated congregation-wide conversations in September that will ask us to articulate what is essential to who we are, and our core values. This is the second year of our ministry together; having spent the first year getting to know one another, now it is time to engage in a thoughtful conversation about who we want to be and what we want our congregation to be. This conversation will shape the course of the next several years of our ministry. From those conversations, a task force will be looking to renew our mission statement, and the board will take the conversations and responses at the town hall meeting to articulate a clear vision and the goals that will get us there.

On a second front, we are facing urgent facility needs, in particular the need to update the utility service to our building, resurfacing our northwest parking lot to meet federal mandatory dust control standards, and the addition of a sewer line to replace our aging septic system. In addition, there are dreams we have of new restrooms and a new fully accessible lobby. Our conversation defining our core values will shape how we will address the needs of our facility. Our building is merely a tool, a place from which to achieve our mission. Once we have a vision for our future, we will be

able to plan for how we can address the critical needs of our facility in a way that serves our larger mission.

I once heard someone say, "Our failure is not that we dream too big, but that we dream too small." Some congregations never stop to ask why are we doing what we are doing, who are the people we are called to serve, or what is the difference we hope to make. If we don't ask these questions, we will not be able to make a real difference. Wouldn't it be better to reach for the stars and fall short, than to only reach for routine and succeed in getting it?

I'll end with a reading from a publication the Unitarian Universalist Association put out this year as an introduction to our tradition. It's by William R. Murray.

*These are the days that have been given to us;*

*let us rejoice and be glad in them.*

*These are the days of our lives;*

*let us live them well in love and service.*

*These are the days of mystery and wonder;*

*let us cherish and celebrate them in gratitude together.*

*These are the days that have been given to us;*

*let us make of them stories worth telling to those who come after us.*

Blessings,  
Susan

## Small Group Ministry

### Facilitator's Training

Saturday, September 19

9:00 am - Noon

#### WHAT ARE SMALL GROUPS?

In a large and growing congregation, meeting others, finding community and a place to belong becomes more challenging than in a small congregation. Small groups are a great way to help people get to know one another within a larger community.

For several years our congregation has had Covenant Groups, groups of 6-10 people who meet regularly for conversations on spiritual, religious and life issues. The purpose of the group is to create a space to explore our deeper human question of meaning, to explore our spiritual lives, and to build connections among people in the congregation.

This year, we expect to have a variety of small groups starting. Some will be in the Covenant Group model, but there will also be a men's group beginning and perhaps a few support groups.

This training will cover some techniques of leading successful small groups. We will use the Covenant Group format as a starting point, but will broaden our scope to talk about small groups in general and how to, as a small group leader, create a positive experience in the group.

## WHO ARE SMALL GROUP FACILITATORS/LEADERS?

Trained facilitators will lead our covenant groups and other small groups. Facilitators help create and hold the sacred space that allows honest and thoughtful reflection to happen. Facilitators also meet regularly in their own group with the minister so that groups are always connected to the larger ministry. In fact, small groups become an extension of the congregation's ministry.

Facilitators are people who:

- Have good people skills
- Are genuinely interested in helping people become spiritually engaged with one another
- Can feel comfortable learning to guide group dynamics in positive ways
- Are comfortable being primarily responsible for the administrative details of group meetings
- Are reliable
- See their leadership as supporting the broader ministry of UUCP
- Support the small group model

## COULD SMALL GROUPS BE YOUR MINISTRY?

If you are interested in Covenant Groups or another form of small group ministry and think you have the skills to lead a group, please contact our minister, Susan Frederick-Gray. Please plan to attend the facilitator's training session on September 19th. You may also contact Natalie Summit, one of our facilitators to learn more about what it means to lead a Covenant Group.

## From the President. . .

Many of you—perhaps most—will recall an annual rite in school to describe "what I did on summer vacation" (and probably more than a few of our youth still do, even with shorter summer breaks). Here is some of what "we" did this summer, and a glimpse of coming events this Fall.

In June, "we" approved the terms for renovation work over the summer, including a new sign and installation of sprinklers. As a look at our frontage on Lincoln Drive or at our ceilings will tell you, that has not yet happened. In preparing to sign off on the loan, we learned there were some tasks that needed to be performed to satisfy our lender, such as formally changing the title for our property from the First Unitarian Church of Phoenix to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix. Most of these tasks were accomplished relatively quickly. The last such task, essentially updating the environmental assessment work done about five years ago, has proven to require more time, but will be completed in the coming weeks. The Renovation Committee will be revising the schedule for renovation work to be completed this fall.

Also over the summer, several of us attended General Assembly (GA) in Salt Lake City, whose motto was "Standing on the Side of Love." The first couple of days offered UU University breakout groups on six areas of congregational life, such as governance, in my case, or social justice. Surrounding UU University were numerous other meetings and events, such as a public witness walk in support of immigration rights with hundreds of others of various faiths. Throughout GA there were moving, as in motivating, services. These included the Service of the Living Tradition, for which Reverend Ray Manker, UUCP's minister emeritus, lighted the chalice, and where our music director, Connie Jahrmarkt, was credentialed as a member of the first class of UU music directors (the singing was

great too). Also, notable was the Ware Lecture given by Melissa Harris-Lacewell, the nationally known author, political scientist and commentator about race, justice, and reason in America. My favorite, though, was the sermon delivered by Rev. Abhi Janamanchi, of Clearwater, Florida, on Faith in the Borderland. Janamanchi recounted his journey from being the only child of a lower-caste Muslim father and a higher-caste Hindu mother in India, to studying at Meadville-Lombard in America. Janamanchi observed that "imagination has consequences," encouraging us to imagine the world as it might be when we live according to our values and embrace our differences. If you would like to get a flavor of GA, I encourage you to check out the Unitarian Universalist Association website at [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org).

Finally, in advance of the formal start of the upcoming congregational year, board members and others have been developing a plan to enhance our many ministries. As you'll see elsewhere in this Horizons and hear more about in the coming weeks, your input is being sought to make us all that we can be—individually, as a Congregation, and in the wider world. Stay tuned for more! Meanwhile, "we" look forward to an exciting congregational year!

Sarah Carlson, President

*See page 8 for more detail on our renovation plans.*

## Policy-Based Governance

The last few years have seen many changes in our congregation. With regard to the UUCP Board of Trustees, the most talked about change is that the Board is transitioning to “policy-based governance.” What does that mean?

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am submitting this series of articles to share our view of governance, why we are doing it, what it means for everyone, and how we want to go about the process of transition. It is not only intended for our lay leaders and potential lay leaders, but also to help everyone to understand how decisions will be made at UUCP.

One could spend a career learning about governance and all the associated perturbations and nomenclature. For now, let us think of it this way: for the majority of the congregants, this ongoing change means that the Board of Trustees explicitly empowers others in the congregation (primarily the staff) to make the day-to-day decisions that carry out our shared ministry.

### PART ONE: WHY ARE WE INTERESTED IN CHANGING?

First and foremost, we want to be more effective in living out the mission of the UUCP. Governance facilitates this by allowing the board to concentrate on its most important task: refining our broader vision, monitoring, and strategic assessment of our mission.

Second, we want to liberate the energies of our members. A proper governing board is a “permission-granting body” that puts ownership and authority in the hands of the staff and committees, allowing them to make decisions that carry out our shared mission. In our previous governance structure, the Board of Trustees made most of the key day-to-day decisions, essentially meaning that the Board President functioned as the CEO. This was appropriate when we were smaller. However, in a larger organization, requiring committees to run everything by the board creates a time consuming bottleneck that stifles energy.

Third, governance encourages our growth and better manages increasing complexity in the congregation by improving professionalism, communication and efficiency. As a congregation grows, the management of its functions requires time, accountability, training, and competence that is most available in its professional staff.

Policy-based governance encourages the staff and all the committees to define, articulate and live their roles as a vital component of our overall mission.

### PART TWO: WHAT’S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT?

What is governance? With respect to this discussion, it refers to the decisions and actions that provide goals, direction, accountability, and the resources for this congregation to live its mission. In our current organization, only the Board has the authority to do governance.

In contrast, “management and executive functions” refers to the decisions and actions that make the goals manifest. Authority and obligation for this is distributed broadly to everyone in the congregation. However, the primary responsibility for management and execution lies first with the staff, then with the committees. As the UUCP grows, the minister, not the Board President, will need to assume the role of chief executive.

Upholding a clear assignment for governance (Board) and management (Staff & committees) is fundamental to the health of our growing ministry because, as our community gets larger, the management of the mission is too great and complex of a task for any volunteer group.

In a congregation where the Board is doing management rather than governance, it is typically the latter that is neglected. Such boards are consumed by the day-to-day tasks and never focus on the broader but less urgent decisions of governance. This situation, in turn, frequently leads to congregations that lack strategic leadership, are unable to live a united vision, and are unable to nurture new ideas or to create meaningful change. It is not surprising that many such congregations experience a “growth plateau,” or even decline. \*

In other words, the UUCP has outgrown the management model of a “board-driven congregation.” In order to strengthen our ministry, we must actively engage in governance, continually assess our mission, and create strategic goals. Only the Board, after input from, and as representative of, the entire congregation, can do this.

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\*The source of the information to be presented is a mixture of discussions with our lay leaders, our minister, formal resource material from the John Carver Institute and the Alban Institute, and from the UUA (such as GA workshops). Especially helpful was “Governance and Ministry,” a conference and book by the same name by Rev. Dan Hotchkiss.

Concurrently, we must transition to a “staff-driven” congregation because only a well-trained, professional team of staff will be able to efficiently and effectively lead us in carrying out our mission.

Ultimately, the goal of governance is to have the entire congregation centered around our common mission, rather than having multiple sub-centers around “mini-missions.” In this scenario, individuals and groups, with staff facilitation, will have more freedom to use their talents and creativity because our mission will be much clearer. This will certainly make the UUCP’s ministry much stronger.

To use an analogy, if the congregation was an orchestra, great music would be our mission. The congregation and the governing board would compose the score and arrange the music. The minister would conduct the orchestra. The committees and staff and lay leaders are the lead musicians, but everyone plays an instrument to the same tune and we all make beautiful music together.

As we enter the second year of our shared ministry with Rev. Susan, the conversation about governance will need to be more purposeful because it is very clear that we have a minister who has the talent, desire, and energy to be a great conductor. The board and the congregation need to get busy composing the next great UUCP opus!

We will start by having a Board sponsored forum on optimizing UUCP’s ministry on September 13th and 25th. Everyone is invited to come and contribute your notes.

Submitted by Jimmy Leung,  
Board Secretary

## “Hello” from your Music

### Director

As I write I remember that exactly ten years ago I was flying across the Pacific returning from India. Douglas Scott Dieckmann had died the previous March. A group of his friends and I had traveled to India, as was his request, to place his ashes in the Ganga River. Camping in neighboring Indiana, a Tennessee Valley A-frame, cross country to the Anasazi ruins – he’d planned them all. And now: India, the last big adventure for his friends. Our brains hold some crazy stories from that trip.

We had celebrated his life long before this trip by howling like wolves at the close of his memorial service. You might remember Scott. I wheeled him to choir rehearsals and Sunday Services. He sat by Richard in the choir and had a few conversations with others of our members on wheels. He held Cayenne Newman with great delight when she was a tiny baby.

When I remember times like these, I remember my sister, Barb. When Grandpa Eby died, we sat in the special “family section” of the funeral home. At one point my sister seemed urgent: “Where are my babies?” Others were holding Mike and April, ages 1 and 3 at the time. The promise of new life growing up all around is the joy that balances the tough stuff like scattering ashes.

It’s good to be in a community where the generations mix freely and we share the joys and pains of life.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

- August 26 – Congregation Choir resumes rehearsals on Wednesday evenings: 7:00-9:00 p.m.

If you have a gift of music to share with the congregation, we can find a place for you: Soulful Sundown Band, Family Choir, Congregation Choir, Special Music. Give me a call.

Connie Jahrmarkt  
Credentialed Music Leader

## EEC Update

September...shiny faces, happy children (and even happier adults) as school begins! The UUEEC is alive with activity and ready to start anew. Our classes are full (with a wait list) except for Transitional Kindergarten. If you know of a child who is not quite ready for Kindergarten or is a little too young for Kindergarten, please pick up one of our Transitional Kindergarten brochures in the brochure rack and pass it along. Director Jane can also be reached at [directorjane@gmail.com](mailto:directorjane@gmail.com) if parents prefer to email.

Teacher Rosita left the UUEEC this summer to follow her children to elementary school. After sifting through over a hundred resumes and interviewing seven candidates, we have two new staff members! I would like to thank the Search Committee of Lisa Lowrie, Kelly Nunez, Teacher Jane, Teacher Kelly and Teacher Val for working tirelessly to make this happen. There were some very qualified candidates but we feel we got the best of the bunch! Here they are:

4's Co-Teacher/Lunch Bunch Teacher: Katy Armstrong (no relation!) comes to us from Minnesota and will teach Monday - Thursday morning and lunch bunch for the 4's class. She recently moved to Phoenix bringing with her a BS in Child and Family Studies with an Early Childhood license and 30 post-graduate hours and a Parenting Education license. She has taught children

and parents in public school and in the University lab school at St. Cloud State University. Katy is excited about being a part of a true early childhood program and will bring new energy and enthusiasm to the school.

**Lunch Bunch Teacher:** Allison Burns will teach the 3's Lunch Bunch with Teacher Jane on Mondays and Fridays, the 2's Lunch Bunch on Thursdays, and 4's Lunch Bunch on Fridays. Allison created, developed and taught a summer camp program at Valley Presbyterian for five years, led Imagine That Summer Camp for two years, and has been a preschool teacher at Paradise Valley United Methodist Preschool for the past five years. Allison is finishing her BA in Early Childhood Education in about a year.

I would especially like to thank Teacher Val for her time and talents in reviewing the selected resumes and helping me to figure out who to interview. She has been a huge support and very insightful in helping hire a new teacher.

I would like to thank so many of you who sent cards, letters and post cards to wish me well in my recovery. It has been a summer of fighting infection and living on antibiotics following what should have been a fairly easy surgery. I am finally feeling better each day and getting my strength back. Just thinking of school starting gives me strength. Your thoughts and wishes came at just the right time and were greatly appreciated.

Well, on with the show. Staff will return on August 31 and children and families on September 8. It should be another memorable school year.

Jane Armstrong  
UUEEC Director

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

### WELCOME FROM THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COMMITTEE

We have had a wonderful summer with our "Cool Kids Sustain the Earth" program, but we are ready to welcome everyone back and to get the program year into full swing! This time of year is busy for families as kids return to school and life returns to a normal, yet hectic pattern. We hope that you carve out time to find sustenance in our UUCP community amidst the craziness and will make being a part of our UUCP family a regular practice for your entire family.

Our 2009-2010 Children's Ministry Committee is comprised of an incredible group of talented women who work together to plan thoughtful, creative ways to make UUCP a warm, welcoming spiritual home for every child, teen, and parent. We welcome new members to our committee, which meets the second Thursday of each month from 6-8 p.m. at a committee member's home. Please contact Kim St. Clair at [redirector@phoenixuu.org](mailto:redirector@phoenixuu.org) if you would like to join us!

Sarah Henkel, Chairperson  
Nancy Cruse, Member  
Cynthia Diefert, Member  
Cathy Maxwell, Member  
Wendy Metcalf, Member  
Andrea Price-Lace, Member  
Tammy Wheeler-Rhodes, Member

### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY FOCUSES ON OUR SOURCES IN 2009-2010

The curricula chosen for this year will highlight the "sources of our living tradition" (please see the back of any Order of Service or the Children's Ministry brochure for the complete list of our UU sources). Our UU faith is based on the wisdom of our inner spiritual lives, as well as the world's varied faith traditions (including science and earth-based spirituality) and the thoughts and words of prophetic men and women.

Pre-k-Kindergarten - "Treasure Hunting" - children explore "the meaning of life" and the value of living in a faith community with hands-on, concrete activities.

1st-2nd Grade - "Free to Believe" - children will get the chance to examine UU principles and sources and some of life's big questions through story, song and art projects.

3rd-4th Grade - "Holidays and Holy Days" - children will learn about the origin and meanings of various faith tradition's holidays by "doing" the holidays.

5th-6th Grade - "Bibleodeon" - children will be introduced to Hebrew and Christian scriptures with a UU perspective through interactive activities.

7th-8th Grade - "Popcorn Theology" and "Fighting Invisible Tigers" - In the "Popcorn Theology" unit, teens will explore moral and theological issues by viewing clips of popular movies and through focused discussions. With the "Fighting Invisible Tigers" unit they will also learn to identify stressors in their lives and how to manage the trials and tribulations of young adolescence through a variety of stress management techniques.

9th-12th Grade (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists) - Our high school group is led by four amazing advisors who guide our teenagers to discover topics pertinent to their everyday lives and that help them live out their UU values.

### EXPAND-A-FAMILY PROGRAM MAKES ITS DEBUT

The UUCP has a long-standing tradition of pairing adults and children. We are excited to expand this wonderful way of building multigenerational community by introducing the "Expand-a-Family" program. This program matches families with children 0-18 who would enjoy the fellowship of another adult or adult couple who does not have children living at home. We see this program as an "adopt a grandparent(s)" one, but we are not limiting it only to folks who are grandparent age! The Children's Ministry Committee will sponsor "get-to-know-you" and other fun activities to encourage a connection among participants. Of course, we fully expect and hope that these newly formed "families" will meet outside of these UUCP sponsored activities.

Both families and adults/adult couples who would like to be matched will complete an application in the fall, and our co-coordinators, Cynthia Diefert and Jamie Wilson will inform participants of the matches in early October.

Applications are on the back side of the Children's Ministry Registration form, as well as on our website [www.phoenixuu.org](http://www.phoenixuu.org).

### To Seek Knowledge in Freedom...

#### WELCOME FROM THE ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COM- MITTEE

The ARE Committee met for the first time for the 2009-2010 program year in early August. We all came away from the meeting with tremendous enthusiasm for our coming year, as we continue to listen to the needs of UUCP members and friends about Adult Religious Education.

Our energetic, intellectual and FUN committee is:

Terry Simmons, Chair  
Jay Alagia, Member  
Juli Harvey, Member  
Gavin Hornbuckle, Member  
David Johnson, Member  
Lois Leader, Member  
Sue Kennedy, Member

We meet the first Wednesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. in office 2. Please feel free to join us sometime!

### WE HAVE HEARD YOUR COMMENTS

We are continuing to offer movie nights the third Wednesday of every month. We received many wonderful suggestions for movies, which we truly appreciate and consider! We hope to choose movies that are timely and thought-provoking.

We have also heard your desire for a larger selection of titles on the book table. We have made it a goal to expand our offerings as well as highlight books connected to courses being offered and upcoming book discussion group selections. Please keep suggestions coming our way about what you would like to see on the book table!

Look for our October class book: Questions for the Religious Journey: Finding Your Own Path by George Kimmich Beach.

Please e-mail Kim St. Clair at [redirector@phoenixuu.org](mailto:redirector@phoenixuu.org) for further information about Adult Religious Education opportunities.

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

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Warren Herbert Amster	Sarah Patterson Ingersoll
Thomas Stephan Kole	William Blauvelt Bishop
Arthur Wilfred Olsen	Betty Halsema Foley
Betty K. Irvine	Phillip Kevin Bliklen
William Eugene Swineford	Julia Michelle Fritts
Mary Ellen Mussman	

## Update from the Renovation Committee

Your eyes are not deceiving you: a new sign has not yet been built. Unfortunately, the summer was spent working on additional needs for the loan application, the fire permit, and related municipal requirements.

The next Renovation Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 3, 2009 at 6:30 PM at the UUCP. We hope to develop a new time frame for the construction.

Below is a summary of the work accomplished.

**Loan:** New West Consulting conducted an appraisal of the property and the document is on file at the UUCP office. The bank requires additional environmental documentation on the building. A task has been defined to update the environmental report and put the UUCP in full compliance with Environmental Protection Agency requirements.

**Property Title:** During the title search, it was discovered that the property deed is still recorded under the name "First Unitarian Church of Phoenix". The Board of Trustees has taken the action to resolve this issue. A quitclaim and affidavits are being prepared to transfer the title of the property to the current UUCP Corporation.

**Building Permit:** The Town of Paradise Valley has issued the building permit. The permit expires on 12/20/2009 and will have to be renewed as it includes work to

be performed later.

**Builder's Risk Insurance:** A one-year policy effective July 1st, 2009 was obtained through Hill and Usher Insurance.

**Fire Line Routing:** A new fire line routing was developed that will be lower cost and avoids cutting the basketball court and relocating the playground equipment. The 4" main fire line will tap into an existing line that feeds the 2001 structure just west of it, will be routed north just outside the play area, and will end at the 1961 classroom wing's north end. The 1961 building fire riser will be located in the custodial closet.

**Sprinkler Routing:** After further building inspection, changes were made to the internal sprinkler line routing and the drawings were updated. Some exposed lines will be needed to maintain the building's structural integrity.

**Doors/Windows:** Porter Construction has identified alternative panic bars for the doors that will be more reliable. They will be used in the 1965 annex. In addition, the panic bars in the 1961 building will be replaced at no additional cost.

Please thank Heidi Parmenter, Smoot Carl-Mitchell, Bill Mee, Piya Jacob, and Gene Rowley for their work this summer.

Don Weir  
Chair, 2009 Renovation Committee

## Interested in Drug or Alcohol Recovery with a UU Touch?

The Addictions Ministry Committee (AMC) is kicking off its second year this September. In our first year we completed a mission statement, started a resource binder available in the main office, and completed a pamphlet which is in the foyer. Plans for this year will focus primarily on organizing training workshops (in conjunction with ARE) and, we hope, starting up a support group by Spring 2010. If you have experience with twelve-step programs or alternative recovery programs, are a good listener, and believe that recovery could use a UU touch, please contact Gene Harvey (cell 602-361-9067) or Reverend Susan to arrange a meeting. Youth are encouraged to apply.

## Getting to Know You... the Green You

by Harriet Williams

Toni Colotte generously contacted me to share sustainability efforts she and her husband Greg Holmberg have implemented in their home. We'd love to hear from you, too.

Toni and Greg moved to Phoenix eight years ago from Philadelphia. One of the first things they did in their new home was convert to xeriscape landscaping, replacing the lawn with low-water plants, including "rescued" cactus. Their house had an east-west orientation with its front getting the southern winter sunlight but new trees provided shade for their west-oriented windows. Also, they don't use chemical weed killers but care for the yard themselves, and when an infestation of bees made extra pest control necessary, they used an environmentally responsible local pest control company.

They also focus on sustainability and good health by shopping at the farmer's market so often that they know the farmers by name. And, of course, recycling: As well as using the city-provided program, they take household batteries to stores with special programs. Toni likes to browse in stores offering "green" products and at one of these has purchased recycled carpet squares to use as a doormat. She reports that it works much better than previous mats.

Toni and Greg belonged to a UU church in Devon, Pennsylvania, where Toni had grown up. Oriented to social responsibility for a long time, she saw the first Earth Day in Philadelphia and during her time in San Francisco was active in a city-wide food cooperative. Right now she is excited about her new Facebook account, through which she loves keeping up with her friends.

Susan Leung, along with her husband Jimmy and their two daughters, Elizabeth and Katherine, have entirely remodeled their house to incorporate lots of sustainability features, including solar panels for both water heating and electricity generation, and a highly effective insulation system for their roof and walls. The feature that Susan likes the best, however, is the hot water recirculation system which keeps water flowing within the pipes until it turns hot, at which point it throws a switch to allow this hot water to flow out. She loves the way it saves water. This kind of system can be installed without remodeling. They also save water by covering the swimming pool, which helps in cleaning, too. Another major goal is limiting trash to one bag per week which they do by recycling everything possible and shopping with an idea of reusing the containers.

Jimmy grew up in Hawaii, and Susan in South Carolina. They met in New Jersey and lived in Hawaii and Pennsylvania before moving to Arizona in 2000. After a few years they joined UUCP, having found that it fosters the values of care, learning and community that are important to them. As you probably already know, the Leungs are very active in the life of our congregation.

Home-schooling Elizabeth and Katherine has been Susan's greatest adventure, with the joy of watching them learn and grow. The girls have taught her things from their lessons, too; it's an experience of growth and sharing for them all.

## Unicare

Even though we all have been scattered to the four winds during the summer months, e-mail has been a wonderful tool as always to hear from members of the Congregation over the summer.

Regina Nelms wishes to thank all of those who have given her support during her recovery from her accident, especially Heather McLellan, who has provided wheels to many necessary appointments. Regina is up and walking now but is still not able to handle driving.

More bouquets from Juanita Guidry Cope-land who is so thankful for all of the moral support she received from her UU friends before her cataract surgery. Surgery is a scary time and it is great to hear personal stories of success.

Our thoughts are with Charlie Lynch who will be undergoing hip surgery even as this is being written. Charlie, you're one hip guy, so we wish you speed with your recovery.

Don Moran is recovering from his hospital stay at Chris Ridge Rehabilitation. We hope that by the time this is printed he will be back home and on the go once again.

Hooray for Tim Tilton and the doc who discovered just the right surgery. Tim now can enjoy his new state of retirement in good health.

Our love and sympathy to Mary Schneider and her family on the death of Bob Schneider. Mary and Bob had been married for forty years. We will miss him.

Facing our joys, sorrows and challenges together in community,

Julie Smart, Unicare Chair

## Social Action Committee

### (SAC)

We had a wonderful chance to present some of our activities to the congregation when we did a Sunday service in August. We plan to have several task forces set up this coming year to make it easier for more members of our congregation to get involved. If we don't have a task force in an area that you would like to get involved in, please contact me or someone on our committee and we will do our best to help get one started.

At the Sunday service Bill Lace, our new vice-chair who is heading up the immigration legislation task force, gave an important update on what is happening at the state and federal levels. Carla Dunlap made an appeal for sponsoring a low-caste child in Nepal for only \$280 a year. Heather McLellan talked about our monthly meal for the homeless and our need for more volunteers with that effort. And Mark Grenard gave us his personal story with health insurance and reminded us of the great need we have in this country to care for all of our citizens. Thanks to all of our committee members for speaking and making the Sunday service a success.

### SOCIAL ACTION LUNCHEON

Our speaker at our monthly luncheon on September 18 will be from the Sierra Club. I know that many of you are members of the Sierra Club or have thought of becoming a member; this is your chance to be more informed and to ask questions. We would like it to be common knowledge in the congregation that we are inviting everyone who is interested to our luncheons. One member told me recently that she thought for 20 years that these luncheons were only for SAC members when nothing could be further from the truth. It is our mission to bring speakers to our congregations for everyone to hear. Please mark your calendars to stay for the SAC luncheons on the third Sunday of every month after service in the Johnson room. Thank you.

### HEALTH INSURANCE ACTIVISM UPDATE

George and Jane are still in Washington D.C. working for Single Payer Health Insurance for all. It is important to know that the campaign will continue until it is accomplished. And for all of you who are interested in healthcare reform, a new health care task force will be starting this Fall.

See you at the SAC table. Don't forget we have Fair Trade coffee and chocolate there for you.

In LOVE and PEACE,  
Sarah Burchard  
SAC chair

*Read the UUCP Compass  
each week for the most up-  
to-date announcements in  
our UU community.*

*Available online at  
[www.phoenixuu.org](http://www.phoenixuu.org) or via  
email signup.*

## Calendar of Events...

### **Tuesday September 1 2009**

10:00 AM UUCP Staff Meeting  
6:00 PM Yoga  
7:15 PM Meditation

### **Wednesday September 2 2009**

6:00 PM ARE Committee  
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

### **Thursday September 3 2009**

6:30 PM Renovation Committee  
7:30 PM Campus Ministry

### **Saturday September 5 2009**

9:00 AM Sound Reinforcement Workshop

### **Sunday September 6 2009**

9:00 AM Music Rehearsal  
10:30 AM Celebration of Life  
10:30 AM Nursery Childcare  
10:30 AM Sunday School  
11:30 AM Coffee Hour  
11:30 AM New Day Center Meal  
11:45 AM Covenant Group  
12:30 PM Young Adult Group

### **Monday September 7 2009**

7:00 PM Women's Spirituality Circle

### **Tuesday September 8 2009**

10:00 AM UUCP Staff Meeting  
5:30 PM Committee of Ministry  
6:00 PM Yoga  
7:00 PM Amnesty International  
7:15 PM Meditation

### **Wednesday September 9 2009**

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

### **Thursday September 10 2009**

7:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting

### **Friday September 11 2009**

6:00 PM The Stream Rehearsal  
OWL Overnight

### **Saturday September 12 2009**

8:00 AM Fuhr Wedding

### **Sunday September 13 2009**

9:00 AM Music Rehearsal  
9:30 AM Pathway to Membership  
10:30 AM Celebration of Life  
10:30 AM Nursery Childcare  
10:30 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Membership Committee  
11:30 AM Coffee Hour  
12:30 PM Young Adult Group  
12:30 PM Nominating Committee

### **Monday September 14 2009**

7:00 PM Women's Spirituality Circle

### **Tuesday September 15 2009**

10:00 AM UUCP Staff Meeting  
6:00 PM Yoga  
7:15 PM Meditation

### **Wednesday September 16 2009**

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

### **Thursday September 17 2009**

6:30 PM Sunday Services Committee  
7:30 PM Campus Ministry

### **Saturday September 19 2009**

9:00 AM Covenant Group Training  
12:00 PM Choir Retreat  
5:00 PM Circle Dinner

### **Sunday September 20 2009**

8:00 AM Music Rehearsal  
8:30 AM Nursery Childcare  
9:30 AM Pathway to Membership  
9:30 AM Celebration of Life  
9:30 AM Children's Ministry Classes  
10:15 AM Coffee Hour  
11:00 AM Book Discussion Group  
11:00 AM Children's Fellowship  
11:00 AM 7th & 8th Grade OWL  
11:15 AM Celebration of Life  
12:15 PM Coffee Hour  
12:15 PM Young Adult Group  
12:30 PM Social Action Luncheon  
12:30 PM Nominating Committee

### **Monday September 21 2009**

7:00 PM Women's Spirituality Circle

### **Tuesday September 22 2009**

10:00 AM UUCP Staff Meeting  
6:00 PM Social Action Committee  
6:00 PM Yoga  
7:15 PM Meditation

### **Wednesday September 23 2009**

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

### **Saturday September 26 2009**

5:00 PM New UU Potluck

### **Sunday September 27 2009**

8:00 AM Music Rehearsal  
8:30 AM Nursery Childcare  
9:30 AM Celebration of Life  
9:30 AM Children's Ministry Classes  
10:15 AM Coffee Hour  
10:30 AM Membership Committee  
11:00 AM Book Discussion Group  
11:00 AM Children's Fellowship  
11:15 AM Celebration of Life  
12:15 PM Coffee Hour  
12:15 PM Young Adult Group  
12:30 PM Nominating Committee  
1:00 PM All Hands Ceramic Studio Field Trip

### **Monday September 28 2009**

7:00 PM Women's Spirituality Circle

### **Tuesday September 29 2009**

10:00 AM UUCP Staff Meeting  
6:00 PM Yoga  
7:15 PM Meditation

### **Wednesday September 30 2009**

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

*President: Sarah Carlson  
Vice President: Paula Kulina  
Treasurer: Smoot Carl-Mitchell*

*Minister: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray  
Minister Emeritus: Rev. Ray Manker  
Religious Education Director: Kim St. Clair  
Music Director: Connie Jahrmarkt  
Membership Coordinator: Kate Otting  
Administrator: Heidi Parmenter  
Custodian: Manuel Gomez  
Early Education Cooperative Director: Jane Armstrong  
Nursery Supervisor: Tiffany Mendez  
Office Volunteers: Larry Agle, Sally Boyd, Bill Parker, Jan Wise, Art Dupont, Tish Gauntt, Sharon Hise, Pauline Peverly, Julie Smart and Judith Willison*

## Our Mission

Our religious community aspires to:

- Embrace diversity as we engage in the passionate pursuit of Unitarian Universalist principles;
- Share ministry that promotes life-long 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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