



A Welcoming Congregation

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

November 2009

Minister's Musings

November is a month for remembering and a month for family. Throughout many cultures and traditions, the end of October and the beginning of November is a time to remember loved ones who have died. In Mexico, it is the celebration of Dia de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead. In Catholicism, it is the celebration of All Souls Day. In ancient pagan tradition, it is the Samhain celebrations. Halloween is rooted in this Samhain tradition, a time when it is said the veil between the world of the living and that of the spirit world is thin. Throughout all of these traditions, the call is to remember our ancestors and our loved ones who have died. It is a time to pay tribute and remember.

November is also a month of harvest and as the season begins to turn from summer to fall, the fruits of the fields in the North and the East are harvested. This time of year the squash, potatoes and root vegetables are dug up and stored for the winter. It is a time for feasting. And so the month draws to a close with the celebration of Thanksgiving, a time for loved ones and family to gather and feast before winter arrives. This is a time to focus on relationships and community and our worship will reflect the meanings of this season.

On November 1, everyone is invited to bring mementos or photographs of loved ones that have died. In our service, we will create a community altar of memory, honoring the ways our loved ones remain part of who we are. At our annual all ages Thanksgiving service, I invite anyone who would like to prepare a bread from their family tradition and heritage to share with the community to bring it to the service. I use the term bread loosely, to mean any traditional staple, whether flour, corn or rice based that holds meaning for you. (Please contact me if you are willing to bring a bread for this service). In this way we will celebrate the harvest.

And finally, I invite anyone who is interested in working with me to create a service on the Fables and Foibles of Family on November 29 to be a part of this service. I will be working with a group of interested people to lead this service. You can find more information in the Compass about this service and how to get involved, but the easiest way is to contact me or to show up on Thursday, Oct 29 at 6:30pm.

May this time of changing seasons, of memory and love, bring a sweetness to your year.

Yours,
Susan

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From the President

Because Horizons is now a journal, rather than a newsletter, I want to describe some of what the Board has been working on since late summer.

In mid-July, several trustees met to lay the groundwork for the year. Then, in early August, the Board held an all-day retreat to set goals for the year. One of the goals set for this year was to assess and realize our mission. A key part of the latter, particularly in light of UUCP's growth, is a dedicated focus on truly becoming a policy-based board.

While the minutiae of policy-based governance may not make for riveting dinnertime conversation—at least for most of us—the reason for doing so can be readily understood: to facilitate the transformation of individuals, our community, and our world by freeing our energies to focus on our mission. But first, it is necessary to determine our mission. To do that, UUCP held two well-attended "Voicing our Values" sessions.

The input from the sessions is being distilled by a task force of members and staff into an assessment of our core values and consideration of a mission statement capturing those core values. Stay tuned for further articles from that team in the coming weeks and for consideration of our mission statement by the Congregation later this year.

Also, the Board plans to hold forums periodically at which members and friends can share hopes, concerns, and questions with trustees.

Meanwhile, the Board will be focusing on creating policies regarding the delegation of responsibilities and how to monitor UUCP's success in living our mission.

Respectfully,

Sarah Carlson, President



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

Unicare

On September 25 in the early morning, we lost a part of our heart that will be only be filled up again with the wonderful memories that we all share of our dear Charlie Lynch. He was a dear friend, traveling companion, surrogate father, and the man with the healing hugs and the humorous twinkle in his eye. We will miss those hugs, his impromptu songs complete with all of the verses and melodies and his irreverent and frank appraisals. He will be remembered every time we hear an Irish song or dine on Irish stew, and especially when we share our Charlie stories which are innumerable. Charlie inspired us to take the time to engage in the people we meet in each day's journey, to enjoy the moment, to love, to laugh, and even to embrace the silly moments. We are so thankful that we have each other to remember and understand in the days to come, the wonder that was Charlie.

Smiling through the tears,
Julie Smart
Unicare Chair

It Certainly Takes a Village . . .

by Jamie Wilson, Expand-A-Family Coordinator

It is simply a fact of life these days that most of us don't live near our extended families. Or, in some of our cases, we don't have much in the way of extended family to begin with. Many of us became members of UUCP to add a sense of community to our lives. Some of us wanted our children to be a part of that community so they could be around like-minded people. For many, the Sunday services and Religious Education programs help strengthen their sense of belonging in the UUCP community. Whether or not you have children, you probably know: It takes a village to raise a child.

Do you want to be part of a village?

- Adults, are you interested in bringing children into (or back into!) your life?
- Families, would you like to make multi-generational friendships

- Kids, do you think it would be cool to have extra aunts, uncles, or "bonus grandparents"?
- Does your vision of community include good friendships with diverse people?

Would you like to EXPAND YOUR FAMILY?

- Complete the Expand-A-Family application. Turn the form in to the UU Pals mailbox.
- Families and adults will be matched by the Children's Ministry Committee and will be notified of their new "family."
- Be in touch on at least a monthly basis with your new connection to the community. Commit to participating fully with the goal of making a true friendship.

Join us for fun group activities!

We will gather to celebrate our community on a regular basis. Through these organized social activities we can build deeper, more, and varied bonds with one another and our families! Think of them as "family get-togethers!"

Please don't hesitate to contact me with ideas, suggestions, or questions. I am passionate about this program and the opportunity it presents to broaden our lives and build multi-generational and diverse relationships within our community. My cell is 817.350.3628 and my email is jamiewilson@yahoo.com.

Have fun and enjoy!

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

Richard Charles Malmleaf
Rose Elfenbein Egeland
William Harold Gooding
Elizabeth Wright McNeal
Alvena Isobel Cranmer
Barbara Lusby Hise
Walter R. Pepper
Shirley R. Sarasohn

Love is the Doctrine of this Congregation . . . Children's Ministry News

FROM YOUR LIFESPAN
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
DIRECTOR

*We clasp the hands of those that go
before us,
And the hands of those who come after
us.
We enter the little circle of each other's
arms
And the larger circle of lovers,
Whose hands are joined in a dance,
And the larger circle of all creatures,
Passing in and out of life, who move
also in a dance,
To a music so subtle and vast that no
ear hears it
Except in fragments.*

-Wendell Berry, quoted in A Tale of
Boxes by Robert T. Latham

As we settle into our routine of Sunday mornings, potlucks, holiday services, and all of the other ways we come together as a community, I am constantly reminded of the value of a multigenerational community. Unlike a school, the workplace, or any other community to which we might belong, we have the opportunity of entering into this one at birth and remaining here until death. In so doing, we are constantly "grasping the hands that go before us" as we transmit our UU legacy to our children and each other, honoring those who have created and sustained this place we call the UUCP. When we reach out across the generations in our midst, we are also "the hands of those who come after us" and entering "the little circle of each other's arms."

We will be launching our "Expand-A-Family" program in November (see article on page 3). I hope that many of you will take this opportunity to enrich your lives by making an intentional multi-generational connection. May we all have the chance to move together in the dance of creation.

In peace and love,
Kim

SUNDAY SCHOOL SHORTS

Pre-K-Kindergarten Class- Teachers Lenore and Geraldine - This month was all about getting to know each other. It's going to be a great year! We are going to be making Treasure Boxes for this year's curriculum.

1st-2nd Grade Class - Teacher Sara - The first and second grade class has so far been exploring our first two principles, "We are all important" and "We respect each other." We've also done arts and crafts (mask making), storytelling, and plays to help us remember these principles better. It's been a fun and exciting couple of weeks, and I'm looking forward to diving into our other principles soon!

7th-8th Grade Sunday School Class - Teacher Hannah - Hi all! The seventh and eighth grade Sunday school class has been having a lot of fun, and I've been learning lots from them, too. We recently watched the movie "Forrest Gump" and had a great discussion about gratitude and how our own lives are like boxes of chocolates. We'll be watching other movies and discussing them as part of our "Popcorn Theology" curriculum, so if you'd like to send a special movie snack with your son or daughter, that would be cool! I'd also like to extend

many thanks to our marvelous assistants this year. I can't wait to see what the rest of the year will bring!

7th-8th Grade Our Whole Lives (OWL) (Lifespan Sexuality Education) - Steve, Jen, Jeff and Kathleen - The OWL program for seventh and eighth grade students is underway, and meets every Sunday during second service. Our Whole Lives is a UU curriculum that addresses human sexuality from a broad perspective. Students so far have been learning about topics such as sexual language, diversity, understanding gender roles, gender identity, respect in relationships and how UU values relate to human sexuality. We will be learning much more in the weeks to come. Our current group of middle school students is incredibly insightful and thoughtful, and they contribute a great deal to group cohesiveness and growth in the program.

FOCUS ON CHILDREN'S MINISTRY LEADERS: LENORE CRAITE

Lenore Craite is the Co-lead teacher of the Pre-K/K Sunday School Class. An auditor by trade, Lenore became a Sunday school when she volunteered in her daughter Rachel's class. Now Rachel has moved on to the first and second grade class and Lenore remains in Pre-K/K. Lenore feels it is important to provide a safe and fun environment for the little ones to set the stage for the many years of UU education to come.

To Question is the Answer

by Gene Cherry

For the last three weeks the ARE class has been discussing "Questions for the Religious Journey" a book written by George Kimmich Beach. I have found the class to be very stimulating and helpful in understanding a UU approach to religion. Some of my earliest recollections of bumper stickers on cars of my UU friend's cars were "TO QUESTION IS THE ANSWER." I never really understood what the bumper stickers meant until I read the book. Beach asserts that the basic source of our religious efforts is curiosity, namely almost everything around us that we don't understand. Beach associates understanding with truth, and as our own UUCP covenant says: "The quest for truth is our sacrament." Important to our own personal quest for truth is the personal quest for a "calling," or finding what we are good at and also for our own personal commitment to what is most important to in the conduct of our lives. Similar "quests" for the communities of which we are members are also vital for the life of those communities, both religious and secular, in the form of covenants and contracts. All of the above is a lot to put your mind around but the class has been fun and enlightening!

Update from the Renovation Committee

Work continues to begin the Summer 2009 renovation project. The project includes the following items:

- A new congregational sign on Lincoln Drive
- Doors, windows, fire alarms, and sprinklers in the 1965 annex building
- Fire alarms and sprinklers in the classroom wing and sanctuary of the main building.

Details of the project may be found on the UUCP website at the "UUCP Renovation" tab.

There are a few remaining tasks to complete before the construction can begin. The final loan paperwork needs to be reviewed and signed and the loan executed. Porter Construction is very flexible in their work hours at no additional cost. We expect the work will proceed at night with minimum disruption to UUCP and tenant programs. If any activities must be moved, we will try to provide advance notice. A more detailed schedule will be provided once the loan is executed.

We all eagerly await the beginning of construction.

Don Weir
Chair, 2009 Renovation Committee

From the Finance Committee...

Larry Agle is leaving the committee, We thank him for his service during the past year and wish him the best for the coming year. The UU Early Education Cooperative report was presented by Cara Danby. The preschool is doing well financially and academically with nearly all of the classes at capacity. The EEC had their fund-raising family afternoon on Saturday October 24. This event not only raised money but also provided an opportunity to build the community among preschool parents, children, and the congregation.

The quarterly reports will be sent out Wednesday, October 28. If you have pledged to the Congregation then you can expect to receive your statement by Saturday, October 31. These reports are being sent by email to those we have valid email addresses in an effort to be "green" as well as save costs. Contact the office if you find a discrepancy, or would like to have any item clarified. You can call the office between 9 am and 3 pm Monday through Friday (602 840 8400) or send an email to administrator@phoenixuu.org.

We also would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the congregation this year. If you wish to have any contribution included for tax purposes as part of the 2009 calendar year, the donation must be received in the office by December 31, 2009.

Jim Allen
Chair, Finance Committee

Notes from the UUEEC

This fall, the children in the Fours class and Transitional Kindergarten are working on units with “green” components. Both classes are learning about reusing/recycling and the TK class is now composting! They are making covered containers to put in each classroom for food waste to put in their compost maker and have installed a composter.

Your part is to find the composter. It is within the walls of the patio and is there for all to use. All groups and coffee hour are invited to use the composter. The classes will use the compost to help grow their gardens.

Other exciting things are happening including units on community heroes, worms, staying healthy and so much more.

The Fours class has discovered that making dress up costumes is fun and exciting. They have “fashioned” a fire fighter suit from sheets, masking tape and a pool noodle as the oxygen tank. If you have any old sheets, towels or pillowcases that are not needed, the Fours class will use them for dress up.

Happy Thanksgiving

Jane Armstrong

UUEEC Director

To Boldly Go Where No One Has Gone Before. . .

Did you know that UUs and the Star Trek Federation share common values? Embrace our Humanist tradition and join us for a special multimedia presentation:

**Humanism in Star Trek
Friday November 20th at 7:00 p.m.**

UUCP is honored to host an evening with Susan Sackett who served as personal executive assistant to Gene Roddenberry for seventeen years and worked closely with him in the production of the first five Star Trek films as well as the first five seasons of “Star Trek: The Next Generation.” She and her writing partner sold several stories to that series. Susan has also authored three books about Star Trek.

Humanism is of paramount interest in Susan’s life. It was Gene Roddenberry who introduced Susan to Humanism. Realizing that she, too, was a Humanist, she joined the American Humanist Association (AHA) in 1989. In 1994, Susan relocated to Arizona, where she became active in her local AHA chapter, the Humanist Society of Greater Phoenix. She has been president of HSGP since 2000.

Susan’s presentation includes clips from both the original Star Trek series and Star Trek: The Next Generation. Whether you are unacquainted with Star Trek or a life-long Trekkie, you will enjoy this evening exploring some truly universal truths!

Social Action Committee

George and Jane Pauk gave a very good presentation at our SAC luncheon, and immediately afterwards they started the new Health Care Reform Task Force. If you are interested in joining them, please contact the SAC table at the back of the sanctuary on Sunday morning. Or e-mail them at gpauk@earthlink.net.

The Immigration Task Force formed in May and began holding meetings in June. The group is working to promote the passage of comprehensive immigration reform at the federal level which aligns with Unitarian-Universalist values. Despite polls consistently showing the majority of Americans recognize our immigration system is broken and favor the passage of reform, and despite the attention of many Democratic and Republican officials, reform bills have failed in the past two Congresses. A vocal minority was successful in repeatedly hijacking the debate by spreading unfounded fear based in hate.

Comprehensive immigration reform again is on the drawing board of the new administration and Congress with real movement expected early next year. In anticipation of another chance to solve this issue which affects Arizona and the United States in numerous ways, diverse groups from throughout the country have come together to form a new coalition, Reform Immigration FOR America. The UUA is a member of the coalition. The coalition and some of its major members have studied past failures and identified a new strategy for passage. The Task Force is working with the Arizona Advocacy Network in forming a presentation based on this new strategy to be shared with various audiences throughout the state. The Task Force has contacted

other UU congregations in Arizona to spread the interest and will seek to involve our congregation as the issue heats up this winter.

The Task Force is chaired by Bill Lace and he can be contacted at bill.lace@gmail.com.

In PEACE and LOVE,
Sarah Burchard, SAC Chair

“Getting to Know You”

...the Green You

Lots of our UUCP members lead sustainable lives. We want to share some of their techniques and at the same time get to know each other better. If you would like to share any “green” things that you have found to be successful, please let us know by emailing HarrietWithUUCP@aol.com. Feel free to nominate your “green” friends as well. Let’s keep the good ideas coming!

Last spring Gary Ezzell and his wife, Ann, became the proud owners of a solar hot water system. at about the same cost as replacing their old heater, which was needed anyway. Here’s how it works: A water/glycol mixture heats up in the rooftop solar cells then circulates to the water tank where it heats the household water. This household water then circulates through their home so that hot water is ready as soon as they turn on a tap. No waiting around for cold water to flow out and hot water to reach them. The Ezzells are, therefore, saving on both fuel and water.

After college Gary and Ann served as Peace Corps volunteers in Malaysia, teaching math/science, for which they had to learn the Malay language. Re-

turning to the US, Gary started working with cancer radiation equipment, and in 1999 moved to the Mayo Hospital here from Michigan. After joining UUCP, he has been active in at least six major groups, including two years heading the Board of Trustees. Right now he is especially interested in the Member Engagement Committee, seeking ways to make it easy for congregation members get connected.

The Ezzell’s two children, Jacob and Leah, are grown, married and moved away. Jacob’s becoming a new dad last spring allows Gary to enjoy the deeper connection with him that comes from the shared experience of fatherhood. Now, although their kids are gone, they have two horses and a pony.

Hannah Roberts has been active at UUCP since her 2007 move from Wisconsin to Arizona to study at ASU. She has taught regularly in the Children’s Ministry program and is part of the task force on Visioning our Values. She is a junior now in ASU’s Honors Program, majoring in English Literature with a minor in Nonprofit Administration, and is considering theological school after graduation.

Hannah’s use of Valley Metro’s Light Rail and Bus services should also qualify her for a degree since she has become such an expert at using public transportation. She frequently uses the bus to get to UUCP, although in July she doesn’t mind a ride to or from the Tatum Blvd. bus stop. She also highly recommends car-pooling and would advise it congregation-wide whenever feasible. In addition, Hannah uses Valley Metro to get to her job and for leisure activities, either to go to an event or simply to visit various parts of the Valley. Many people don’t even think of using

buses, but public transportation fits beautifully into a sustainable lifestyle.

Finally, have you ever thought of vacationing in Los Angeles by bus...or subway? Hannah has done it. She says getting around was like magic: convenient and economical, with perks like free entrance to the Getty Center. And, yes, there is a convenient multi-line subway system.

Our Endowment: UU Foundation of Phoenix

The Unitarian Universalist Foundation of Phoenix ("UUF" or the "Foundation") is an Arizona, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) public corporation formed on December 12, 1974 by several dedicated, long-term members of UUCP. Although it is a separate corporation from UUCP, it exists only in support of UUCP.

The principal purpose of the Foundation is to establish and administer an endowment fund to be used primarily for longer range congregational programs and major capital (building and property) improvements that could not normally be sustained through annual operating contributions. The bulk of the Foundation's assets (a general fund and Memorial Garden Fund) are invested in stock and bond mutual funds administered by Northern Trust Company.

The UUCP Board may formally request financial assistance from the Foundation and the Foundation may loan (with or without interest) or make gifts to the congregation for projects that support the long term growth and health of UUCP and Unitarian Universalism.

Members are encouraged to consider the UUF in their estate planning. Contributions to the Foundation are deductible under the Internal Revenue Code. We've included on our web pages (www.phoenixuu.org under "UU Foundation") a number of resources describing planned (legacy) giving, with a listing of financial planners, estate planning attorneys, and accountants who can assist you in evaluation of your financial circumstance and financial and estate planning goals.

For more information about the Foundation, contact Marg Stallworthy at Margaret@mas-cpa.com or 602-997-8951.

Outreach Music Ministry

We are starting a new opportunity to reach out to others with a very special singing group. We call ourselves

Outreach Music Ministry. We will visit our members and friends convalescing either at home or in a care facility. We will fill the room with beautiful songs to heal the heart.

Please contact Jerry Whalin at gerald.whalin@cox.net or 480-990-3097 if you are interested in participating.



Celebrations of Life

9:30 AM and 11:15 AM

NOVEMBER 1: ALL SOULS: DAY OF THE DEAD

Service Leader: Susan Frederick-Gray
In this service we will remember our loved ones who have died. Everyone is invited to bring a picture, memento, or an item that reminds you of a loved one you have lost. Together we will create an altar of memory and celebrate those who came before us and whose lives still speak to us.

NOVEMBER 8: IN PURSUIT OF PEACE

Service Leader: Susan Frederick-Gray
The Veteran's Day holiday (Nov. 11) was initially established as Armistice Day, a day set aside in the interest of international peace. October marked the eight year anniversary of the beginning of the war in Afghanistan. Are we making progress on the road to peace, and if not, how do we learn to effectively pursue peace?

NOVEMBER 15: A RADICAL COVENANT

Service Leader: Susan Frederick-Gray
Unitarian Universalism is not a creedal faith; it is a covenantal faith. What draws us together is not a belief we all share, not a creed, but rather a promise, or covenant, of how we will try to live and be together. The emphasis rests on relationships, not beliefs. So, how shall we be together and what does it mean to belong to one another in community?

NOVEMBER 22: ALL AGES THANKSGIVING SERVICE: LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER

Service Leader: Susan Frederick-Gray

In this multigenerational (all ages) Thanksgiving Service, we will share bread from our families and history. If you would like to make and bring a bread (whether corn, flour or rice based) from your family culture or history to share with the congregation, please contact Rev. Susan. Every week our community nourishes our spirits. Through this service, we offer sustenance for our bodies too.

NOVEMBER 29 FAMILY FABLES, FAMILY FOIBLES

Service Leader: Susan Frederick-Gray and worship co-leaders
This service will explore the truth, humor and difficulties of family. If you are interested in helping to create and lead this service, please contact Rev. Susan at minis-ter@phoenixuu.org or at the congregational office and come to the Thursday, Oct 29 planning meeting at 6:30pm.

Soulful Sundown

First Fridays

Band Rehearses at 6 PM

Service Starts 7 PM

Soulful Sundown service is an evening gathering of music that moves you. This year the theme of the services will be "Sharing our Stories." We'll hear from our own members and we will have a chance to hear from YOU! Come and bring your stories.

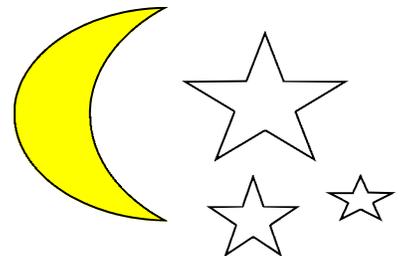
November 6: Tony Banegas shares his story of Honduras

December 4: Ernie Garcia and Paula Kulina share their stories of Transylvania

Stay tuned for February, March, April, and May topics.

We hope you are already saving the date for Cabaret – February 27, 2010.

Connie Jahrmarkt
Credentialed Music Leader



*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 lifelong spiritual growth through Service, Worship, Ritual and Education, thereby inspiring lives of joy and hope;
- Grow and be effective in the greater community.

-Adopted February 1999



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