



A Welcoming Congregation

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

December 2009

Introducing the Capital Campaign Committee

Last spring, the Congregation voted to proceed with the next steps in our efforts to make our congregation's home safe, accessible, and attractive. Work is about to begin on needed safety systems throughout, new doors and windows in the annex, and a new sign on Lincoln Drive. Much remains to be done, and the February vote included a commitment to have a capital campaign this year to address our most pressing needs and bring us closer to the goal of new, accessible restrooms and an expanded lobby with direct front door access for everyone.

A core group of dedicated members will coordinate this capital campaign: Gary Ezzell, Ernie Garcia, Jimmy Leung, Richard Plattner, Betty Sayler, Marshall Smart, and Rick Wambach.

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Our key goals are to:

- Create a capital campaign process that strengthens the community as well as improving the facilities.
- Articulate clearly the rationale and facilities goals for the campaign.
- Ensure that UUCP receives good value for the funds expended.
- Coordinate the capital campaign with the annual stewardship campaign.

The Capital Campaign committee has begun the Advance Phase of the Campaign, working to set a clear plan so that we can make significant progress in a financially prudent way. There are basic infrastructure improvements needed before we can build the restrooms and lobby, and these will likely form our next step:

1. Grading and paving the northwest parking lot, including bringing in necessary utility upgrades, and
2. Connecting to the Phoenix sewer system.

Given the importance of upgrading our restrooms, we are looking at whether we can find a way to make that happen sooner rather than later. However, even these basic improvements will cost on the order of a million dollars, hence our commitment to careful analysis and a stepwise approach.

What we want everyone in our UUCP community to know is that between now and April we will be asking everyone in the congregation to do two things:

1. Make your annual stewardship pledge to support the ongoing operations of our congregation
2. Make a three year pledge commitment to the Capital Campaign to support improvements to our building that will last generations.

The question often arises: how to apportion giving between stewardship and capital? I think about it this way: the annual stewardship giving provides ongoing support for our mission to ourselves and the community. That is always the first priority and must be sustained year after year. Giving to improve the facilities means being more sacrificial over a shorter span of time. Capital forms the chalice, stewardship fuels the flame. Our Capital Campaign Committee's charge is to improve UUCP's physical home, our chalice, so that the flame of our community can burn ever brighter.

Gary Ezzell
Capital/Stewardship Chair

Minister's Musings

There has been a gratitude movement among congregational members on Facebook. Many of you are taking a moment each day to post to your Facebook page something you are grateful for. I enjoy reading these each day. I am grateful to introduce to the congregation a new staff person we have just hired. Kathy Bennett is filling a new position as Assistant to the Minister. This position is a temporary one, running for this program year. Kathy specializes in program management and process improvement. She will be handling many administrative duties for me including scheduling appointments, editing my sermons for the website and providing organizational support as I dedicate a good portion of my time to the Capital Campaign this year.

Ron Lundeen, our fundraising consultant for the Preliminary Summer Assessment, recommended freeing up some of the minister's time to lead the Capital Campaign fundraising in-house, rather than hiring an outside consultant. With assistance on the administrative side, I will be able to focus more of my energy on the Capital Campaign and also on the personal and relational aspects of the ministry.

I will be asking people to schedule appointments with me through Kathy and I am sensitive that initially this may feel like I am more removed from the congregation. Please help me with this so we can achieve the goal of allowing me to be more attentive to members and the ministry by freeing me up from my desk and paperwork.

I look forward to devoting more time to the creative and pastoral aspects of ministry at UUCP.

* * *

The jazz musician Miles Davis said: *"If you put a musician in a place where he has to do something different from what he does all the time, then... he's got to think differently.... He has to use his imagination, be more ...innovative; he's got to take more risk.*

He's got to play above what he knows ---far above it...

I've always told the musicians in my band to play what they know and then play above that. Because that's where great art and music happen."

It is a gift to be challenged in such ways and Miles' words speak to all of us:

Ever since taking the call as your minister, I have felt pulled to play and preach and lead above what I know. We are beginning to see a vision of our community unfolding just ahead of us.

We are beginning to see the strengths and untapped potential present in our congregation.

We are beginning to see how we provide a much needed message that people are hungry for.

We are beginning to see the ways that UUCP can be a beacon for progressive religious values that impacts the larger community.

We are beginning to be a people as welcoming, and radically hospitable, as the core message of our faith is. As we both see and live into our vision, we are all being called to play and serve and give and minister beyond what we know. But that is

where the great inspiration of our souls speaks through us—that is where great art and ministry and music happen. This is an exciting and challenging year. The Capital Campaign is an opportunity to strengthen our community and our commitment. It's not just about the building. It's about building a spirit and strength here at UUCP that is compelling enough to change our lives and impact the community. This year, in big and small ways, we will all be called to "play" above what we know. We will be strengthened and changed by answering that call.

The exciting truth is that we are already doing it. I see it every day of every week. As we enter this holiday season, I am grateful for my family and the health of family. I am grateful for the dedicated leaders and volunteers and members of this community. I am grateful for the promise of this community and our faith.

You all inspire me every day in many ways, large and small, seen and unseen. Thank you for *your* ministry. Thank you for the ways you lead by example in playing above what you know. May this holiday season be one of peace and good will for you and yours.

Love,
Susan

Introducing Kathy Bennett

Kathy Bennett recently joined the UUCP staff as Susan's temporary assistant. She will be working part time through May. Kathy has been a UUCP member since 2003. Kathy will be taking on some administrative and project tracking responsibilities so that Susan can focus more on the ministry. Kathy graduated from UC Berkeley in Computer Science and worked for Hewlett Packard and other major corporations, specializing in Process Improvement and Productivity Management. Her hobby is Nia, an aerobic dance fitness program. She will be getting her Nia Green Belt in December and will start teaching Nia soon.



Update from the Renovation Committee

Work continues on 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.

The loan with Mutual of Omaha Bank was completed on November 12, 2009. The Finance Committee is addressing the proper administration of the loan and tracking expenditures against the loan budget.

Robert Porter construction presented the final cost estimate and the construction contract to UUCP Staff and Leadership on November 10, 2009 during the launch meeting of project. A letter of "intent to proceed" is in preparation.

The overall construction period is about 10 weeks. Porter Construction intends to provide a 3-week 'look ahead' schedule so that UUCP and others are aware of upcoming construction activities. That information will be submitted to the weekly COMPASS newsletter for distribution.

We all eagerly await the completion of construction.

Don Weir
Chair, 2009 Renovation Committee

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

Jo Ann Davy
Agnes Lenore Hetebrueg Ericson
Mary Louise Grobe
Steven Knight
Robert Sclater
Ann Sclater

Love is the Doctrine of this Congregation . . .

FROM YOUR LIFESPAN
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
DIRECTOR

The month of December, more than most times of the year, forces us to make choices: to choose this holiday party over that one; to choose one particular gift over another for a loved one hoping that the one chosen will bring delight and joy; to choose to give to those in greater need over “bumping up” our family’s gift spending limit; to choose to take time to reflect on and bring joy into our lives as opposed to allowing ourselves to spin out of control by doing more than we can truly handle.

Similarly, our religious education ministry made some choices during the hubbub of this month. We chose not to have a movie night or Adult Religious Education class in recognition of the increased busyness the month brings to all of our lives; we have chosen to not have Sunday school on December 20 or 27 to make room for a beautiful multigenerational service and hymn sing, and to allow our Sunday school teachers and volunteers a bit of quiet time. Yet, we have also chosen to stage on Christmas Eve a lovely UU style, audience participation production of the nativity story (no rehearsal!), and to give parents a “day out” on Saturday, December 5th while their children make handcrafted gifts during our annual Nifty Gifty event. We have also chosen to provide a quiet, spirit-filled contemplative second service in addition to our family-oriented first service on Christmas Eve. Indeed, we have carefully chosen ways to bring us together as a community to celebrate the coming of light together while understanding and respecting that there is only so

much that each of us can do.

I deeply hope that you and your family will make the choice to have your spirit uplifted, nurtured and calmed by all that we have to offer in December.

In peace and love,
Kim

NOVEMBER EMPTY BOWLS EVENT - AN EXAMPLE OF UUCP GENEROSITY

I am pleased to report that our November Empty Bowls luncheon raised over \$600 for the New Day Center, which is a record since I have been the Director of Religious Education! More importantly, many members of the UUCP came forward with their generous donations of time, cooking, serving, and beautiful bowls to make the event a success. Particular thanks to Gianna Johnston for shopping for the luncheon; Cathy Maxwell for coordinating the pottery painting, including picking up the bowls from As You Wish; Sarah Henkel, Jaynn Truran and the entire YRUU group for cooking at 7 a.m. on Sunday morning and for setting up and serving after first service; to Marcia Jepson and others who served after the second service; and to the young adult group for putting away tables. A truly beautiful community event, without a doubt.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SHORTS

Pre-K-Kindergarten Class- Teachers Lenore and Geraldine - Last month the Pre-K/K explored our imagination with thumbprints and the story of the magic stick. We also got a start on our treasure boxes. Next month we are going to learn about feelings as well as the winter holidays.

1st-2nd Grade Class - Teacher Sara -

The 1st and 2nd grade class has been enjoying learning about our 3rd, 4th, and 5th UU principles. We've played games, read stories, did arts and crafts to help us apply the principles we've learned! "Respect each other" "We are all important" and "We all have the right to vote" are just some of the topics we've been exploring so far.

5th-6th Grade Class - Teacher Briana

- The fifth and sixth grade class recently has done Noah's Ark and made animal masks of the one animal they would want to bring on the ark. They also have learned about Abraham and Jacob and the complicated history that surrounds them. Also they have created the Gods or Goddesses that they would create if they had that power and put them in their doodle books. Soon we will begin talking about Joseph and his story.

7th-8th Grade Sunday School Class -

Teacher Hannah - The 7th & 8th grade RE class is currently working on lessons from a book called “Fighting Invisible Tigers,” a stress management curriculum for teens. We've been discussing different ways of communicating with parents, peers, teachers, etc. We're also looking at how we can be assertive without being aggressive, which is especially important when it comes to learning how to articulate our UU values to others.

UUEEC News

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to the UUEEC/UUCP!

Sunday, December 6
Location: Room 9

Here are some ways you can support our preschool community and the Booker T Washington book drive through the book fair:

Shop! This is your chance to get a jump on holiday gifts, or simply restock your child's bookshelf. Our preschool receives a portion of the total book sales in cash and earns free books for the classrooms. You may also show your appreciation for our beloved teachers by purchasing a hand-picked book from their classroom wish list. Congregation members may make their purchases for the Booker T Washington Head Start program. Purchases may be made with cash, check or credit card.

Volunteer. We need helpful hands for re-stocking shelves, wrapping gifts, and collecting payments. Shifts are generally an hour long, conveniently timed around pick-up and drop-off, Coffee Hour and your children are welcome to tag along. We can also use help with set-up on Tuesday, Dec. 1 and tear-down on Sunday, Dec. 6. It's easy and fun work, and there will be free coffee and pastries! We need at least four volunteers per time slot; please visit the link below to sign up:

www.doodle.com/7575dprshs9kqwne

Thank you in advance for participating in the UUEEC Scholastic Book Fair. Your support is essential for the success of this event and is deeply appreciated.

Book Discussion Group

"Brain Rules: 12 Principles for Surviving and Thriving at Work, Home, and School" by John Medina. It's paperback and available widely. Published spring 2008. Book Group meets at 10:45 every Sunday in Room 9, next to the Johnson Room.

Adult Religious Education

Facilitators Needed

We are looking for talented, energetic and committed facilitators for two ARE courses: "Parenting beyond Belief" (January Sunday mornings at 9 a.m.) and "Building Your Own Theology" (February Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m.). Materials and a free book along with all of the love, support and undying gratitude will be provided by Kim St. Clair and the ARE Committee! Please contact Kim St. Clair at redirector@phoenixuu.org.

Covenant Groups

ENRICH your spiritual and emotional life. ENJOY a close relationship with a group of loyal and supportive UU friends. EXPLORE the world of UU principles, values, and cherished traditions.

Covenant Groups are called that because the first thing a new group does is establish a list of guidelines which members "covenant" to follow. Typically these guidelines include a commitment to attend meetings regularly, be on time, treat others with respect, be a good listener, maintain confidentiality, and carry out at least one project a year in support of the UUCP larger community, but each group is free to establish their own list.

Groups are composed of five to ten people who meet regularly, usually twice a month, and are led by trained facilitators (although members themselves are also encouraged to lead an occasional meeting). The facilitator chooses a topic of interest to the group, along with questions to stimulate discussion, and selects opening and closing readings. Each session begins with the lighting of the chalice, some welcoming words, and "check-in" (things going on in your life that you wish to share with other members of the group).

Then the group shares in a discussion, usually stimulated by the facilitator's questions, around the chosen topic. Topics may be anything the facilitator or the group believes will deepen and enrich their spiritual lives: love, jealousy, fear, faith, anger, solitude – to name only a few of the hundred or more suggested themes in the facilitator's handbook. Each session ends with a "check-out," during which

members share what they liked about the meeting and what they wish for future meetings.

Covenant groups provide an opportunity to know a small group of UU friends in a deeper, more intimate way than the Sunday coffee hour allows. They encourage the exploration of spiritual/emotional issues rather than solely intellectual. They are not designed to provide therapy, although many times the understanding support of others in the group does promote healing.

Perhaps best of all, those who have joined a Covenant Group now have a group of close UU friends who share their values and will be there for them when life proves difficult.

Please contact Natalie Summit at covenantgroups@phoenixuu.org for more information and current open groups.

Sharing Our Stories - SOS

Sharing Our Stories is a new project jointly sponsored by the Archive and Member Engagement Committees with support from Unicare. It has dual goals of building community and personal connections, and remembering and honoring our past.

At a brainstorming meeting in October, four possible components to the project were identified along with a two pronged approach - facts and stories. The first component and the factual approach is a biographical directory that will include more information than is in our current directory and congregational database.

This will include, for example, schools attended, field of work (active or retired), hobbies or special interests, something interesting in your background (could be places you've lived or traveled, people you've known, accomplishments, adventures, etc.), why you are a UU, activities you currently participate in at UUCP, and past service to UUCP.

This information will be added to the database and available in electronic form making it searchable. For members looking to find, for example, a lawyer or handyman or fellow alumnus, a word search would identify other members that fit those categories.

There are several ways the directory survey could be completed such as e-mail or in one-on-one interviews or as a group project. We're investigating automating the creation of cluster maps. Groups could form around zip codes and one of the 'tasks' they could have could be to interview each other.

The project would also include stories of older members from in-depth interviews as a way of preserving our history. Another component would be Story Corp-like interviews that anyone in the congregation could make with anyone else. (To see how Story Corp recommends doing such interviews see <http://www.storycorps.org/>.) The fourth component could be a column in Horizons about new and established members.

Recently, an additional aspect was added to the project - to update our UUCP congregational history. The printed history we have ends at 1972! We have an updated list of ministers on our website and in the Pathway to Membership book, but according to Rev. Susan, we need to "lift up critical moments in the mission and life of the congregation--that will speak and celebrate who we are more than the names of the ministers."

If you have any questions about the project or might be interested in helping compile the information, please contact Charlotte Carl-Mitchell, ccm@tic.com or call 480-922-7313.

Outreach Music Ministry

News

The Rev. Kathy Baughman will give a training session for Outreach Music Ministry on Tuesday, December 8, 2009 at 6:30 PM at the church - Annex B. You are all invited!

You are also welcome to go Christmas Caroling with us on Saturday, December 19. Look for further announcements in Compass!

Membership: A Dynamic Process of Commitment

By Kate Otting, Membership Coordinator

In her sermon on Sunday, November 15, 2009, Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray reminded us that ours is a "covenant" congregation, versus a religious community based on creed. In other words, we covenant, or promise to one another, how we will try to live and be together. The emphasis is on relationships, not a static set of beliefs.

The UUA's Commission on Appraisal 2001 report entitled "Belonging: The Meaning of Membership," suggested that membership to a religious community is a "process" of commitment. Whether visitors, new members, founding members or children of members we are part of a dynamic commitment to one another. By welcoming newcomers, we agree to embrace the changes that each new member brings into our midst. We see those changes not only in our new member classes but also in leadership, newly-formed committees and ever-changing needs of our congregation.

Since the Membership Coordinator position was created exactly two years ago, UUCP has welcomed 123 new members to our congregation. This growth is due to the openness of this congregation to embrace the cultural shift that comes with the addition of new members. Much of the growth has also been facilitated over the years, by the enthusiasm, commitment and leadership of two committees: Membership Committee (Chair: Laida Restrepo, Laida.Restrepo@asu.edu) and the more recently- created Membership Engagement Committee (Chair: Angela Jansen: angela.jansen@asu.edu). I hope you will join me in applauding their hard work.

PATHWAY TO MEMBERSHIP
By Terry Lockwood
(Terry.Lockwood@motorola.com),

This year, we have initiated a new format for our new member or "Pathways to Membership" classes. The classes will typically consist of a two-part class. The first session, usually held on Sunday morning, will give highlights of our community and provide participants with an opportunity to share spiritual journeys and discuss UUCP membership. The second part of class, typically held on a subsequent Saturday evening, will include a program, potluck and fellowship opportunities with the minister and other members of the congregation. Those who wish to join the congregation will be welcomed at a ceremony following the dinner and fellowship. Newcomers considering membership are requested to plan to attend both classes.

HOW CAN CURRENT MEMBERS MEET NEWCOMERS?

If you would like to meet newcomers and welcome new members into our congregation, Pathways to Membership offers two opportunities. If you are interested in helping to **facilitate the classes**, please contact Terry Lockwood, who will be coordinating the classes beginning in January. (Terry.Lockwood@motorola.com or 602-617-8563). If you would enjoy potluck and fellowship with new members, and to help celebrate as they join our congregation, you are welcome to **participate in the potluck events**. Dates of upcoming Pathways to Membership classes are January 24th and 30th and April 11th and 17th. Sign up for classes can be found online at: www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?m=St_2fnE3yn9f0NNQE5X1cOsQ_3d_3d

Consider becoming a member of the **Welcoming Ministry**. Those are the smiling faces you see at the front entrance each Sunday. If you're interested, contact Loretta Isaac: phxny@yahoo.com.

Or become a **STAR**. Curious? Contact Natalie Summit: my2dogsnme@qwest.net.

WEEKLY DROP-IN DISCUSSION GROUP – DIALOGING WITH NEW AND SEASONED MEMBERS
By Gene Cherry (escherry@juno.com),

Starting November 1, we started a Drop in Discussion group to allow visitors and members to exchange ideas about the sermon of the day. Our hope is that visitors will feel more welcome and included in our congregation. We meet at 10:50, after the first service. We had five people meet after service on November 15th. We had a lively con-

versation about the concept of "covenant." Our conclusion was that covenants develop in most of our close personal relationships. Thus what we do in our congregation community can serve as a positive model for our more personal relationships. The interplay between personal beliefs and our personally developed covenants was also considered. Thus what appears simple is really very complex at an individual level. Our hope is that with a continuing presence after the first service that more people will participate. Certainly our conversation about covenants was most worthwhile.

ENGAGING MEMBERS IN OUR CONGREGATION

The Membership Engagement Committee launched its first ever survey entitled "Connecting With Our Congregation." Several new and current members have connected with activities, new friends and committees through the efforts of this newly-formed committee. If you are interested in working with this group, contact Angela Jansen: angela.jansen@asu.edu.

"Share the Plate" Program

Continuing a tradition begun earlier this year, UUCP will give all undesignated Sunday collections to a worthy charity, once per month. This practice demonstrates our support for the larger community and puts our values into action.

New for this church year is the process for managing the selection of the charity, and a Share the Plate Committee has been formed. If you would like to nominate a charity to receive the monthly collection, you may do so by completing an application. You can find the application form on the UUCP website or in the church office.

All organizations must be a non-profit 501(c)(3) if in the U.S., or the equivalent if outside the U.S. Applications will be evaluated based on:

- Alignment with UUCP values
- Integration with UUCP member activities
- Impact of the organization in the community it serves
- Impact of the donation to the organization's mission
- Instructions are on the application form.

We will do our best to communicate the selected charity each month and highlight its good work. The recipient selected for November was the Interfaith Cooperative Ministries, whose mission is to provide an immediate response to basic human needs. Many of us contribute food, clothing and other items to the collection baskets in our foyer.

Please contact a member of the Share the Plate Committee for more information: Paula Kulina, Judy Lambert, or Larry Thwing.

From the Green Sanctuary Committee

A MODEL PROGRAM

UUCP's Green Sanctuary Program was selected as a model for other Green Sanctuary programs across the country. Our certification projects were included in the 5th edition of the Green Sanctuary Manual. The Green Sanctuary Committee anticipates completion of these projects by May 2010. We could use your help so please let the committee know if you are interested (green@phoenixuu.org) or attend the committee's meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in Annex Room H.

GREEN HOLIDAY TIPS

Gifts

- Buying online will help to reduce your holiday shopping carbon footprint. When you do want to brave the store crowds, do research online beforehand so that you know which stores carry what you're looking for - you'll be able to reduce your driving between stores searching for those perfect gifts, which will save you on gas and on stress.
- Consider e-cards rather than traditional greeting cards to reduce holiday paper use. When paper cards are more appropriate, make sure to use cards with recycled content. Also don't forget to recycle any paper cards you receive.
- The average American's trash out-

put goes up 25% between Thanksgiving and New Year's. Reduce the number of bags thrown out by bringing reusable bags for holiday gift shopping.

- When newspaper comics aren't quite the look you're going for in wrapping presents, consider reusing any gift bags that you received last year. Also, try saving wrapping paper for use next year. When buying gift wrap, make sure to find recycled paper content.

Food

- If you're cooking for the holidays, go local with your food shopping to reduce your carbon footprint. See how much of your meal you can find at your local farmers' markets. For supermarket purchases, try to choose items with minimal packaging to reduce waste. As always, bring reusable bags to reduce waste from disposable shopping bags. If you're bringing your food to someone else's house, pack your dish in a reusable container.
- Go organic with your ingredients. Don't forget to go organic with beverages as well; look for organic and local wines, beers, and non-alcoholic drinks. Fair-trade chocolate, tea, and coffee will also add some green to your holiday table.
- Recycle and compost while preparing food. Keep a bin handy for glass, plastic and paper trash you can recycle rather than toss. Add vegetable scraps from cooking and dinner to your compost.

- Use all the food you make. Send guests home with leftovers in glass or stainless steel rather than wrapped in plastic or aluminum foil. Freeze leftovers in easily reheatable portions.

Decorating

- For holiday lighting, go with LEDs. LEDs are more efficient than standard lights (up to hundred times!), more durable, and much safer and cooler. Operating ten strings of mini-LED lights (as compared to ten strings of wasteful incandescent mini-lights) saves more than \$12 in one month. Unplug or use a timer to turn off holiday lights during the day.
- For those with a Christmas tree, try an organic potted tree from your local nursery that can be replanted after the holidays. A single tree can absorb more than one ton of CO2 over its lifetime, so imagine the impact if we all replanted our trees! A few companies in the U.S. allow you to rent a Christmas tree. They'll pick it up and replant it after the holidays are over. If you have a cut tree, be sure to look into local recycling options. Many municipalities and some organizations collect the trees to use for mulch and erosion control. This is much better than having your tree end up in a sealed landfill.

Special thanks to our congregation's Linda Benson of Green Irene (malamari.phoenix@greenirene.com) for the tips.

UU Service Committee Holiday Cards On Sale Now at Social Action Table



Freedom and Peace



Peace and Goodwill



Justice and Harmony



Hope and Joy



Social Action Committee Working for Social Justice

Many thanks to A Land Harris for showing the film *Health, Money & Fear*, which you can watch on line if you missed it or would like to see it again.

CAN WE BE TALKING TAX ALREADY?

Arizona has provided us with the opportunity to take advantage of two great tax bargains that enable us to help the needy in our community at no extra cost to us - The Arizona Welfare Reform Tax Credit and the Arizona Public School Tax Credit.

The Arizona Welfare Reform Tax Credit. If you meet the eligibility requirements for this credit you may contribute up to \$200 for a single return or \$400 for a joint return to a qualifying charity of your choice and receive a dollar for dollar credit against the taxes you owe the state (as well as an itemized deduction on your federal tax). It will cost you nothing. Please consider the Booker T. Washington Child Development Center in central Phoenix serving three to five year old children, most living below the poverty level. Since 1968 UUCP has been actively involved in supporting this wonderful program. Your contribution should go to Booker T. Washington Child Development Center with notation "Welfare Tax Credit" and mailed to 1519 E. Adams, Phx 85034.

Public School Tax Credit. If you owe Arizona taxes then you are eligible for this dollar for dollar credit against your tax liability by donating to a public school of your choice. These funds will be used for activities such as tutoring, sports or enrichment programs.

Schools with the highest number of students needing extra help are also ones where parents are least likely to be able to donate. Two suggestions are Augustus Shaw School 123 N. 13th Street Phoenix 85034 or Garfield Elementary School 811 N. 13th Street, Phx 85006.

IMMIGRATION TASK FORCE UPDATE

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 Lacey and he can be contacted at bill.lacey@gmail.com.

*Fair Trade Coffee and
Chocolate Available for
Sale at the Social Action
Table. Makes wonderful
gifts and Stocking Stuffers!*



Traveling 2nd Fridays 2010

Mark your calendars the 2nd Friday of each month. It is held in the sanctuary from 7:00 to 8:00 PM.

JANUARY 8: COMING HOME FROM AFRICA VIA INDIA, THAILAND, HONG KONG, MACAU AND CHINA

Presenters: Dave Bellama and Nancy McCharen

In December, 1996, we left Zimbabwe after almost 8 years on the African continent. We took the long way home, traveling for one month through Mumbai to Goa, New Delhi, the Taj Mahal, Christmas and New Year's in Thailand, then on to Hong Kong, Macau and a memorable swing into China. In this presentation, we will share with you our family adventures and what we discovered along the way.

FEBRUARY 12: OAT TRIP TO VIETNAM

Presenter: Lynn Ellsworth

I enjoyed the food (better than the food on my China trip), I was amazed and delighted by the traffic, the explosion of capitalism, and the economics/politics involved in having a communist government but an all out capitalist environment. There was also a side trip to Cambodia. Wish I had studied something about their famous ruins at Angkor Watt. Sad that I didn't find a wife. I did find a 5 year old girl I wish I could have brought home with me. OAT, Overseas Adventure Travel, does a wonderful job herding travelers through a country perhaps because tour size is limited to 16 people.

MARCH 12: COSTA RICA: MOUNTAINS, FORESTS, AND BEACHES OF THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS AND PACIFIC COAST

Presenter: Mike Peterson

Photographs of scenery, vegetation, and some birds and animals from a two-week automobile trip through Costa Rica in March 2009 are presented by Mike Peterson. The focus is mainly on the Monteverde Cloud Forest, Manuel Antonio National Park, and Arenal Volcano areas, but scenes from the capitol, San Jose, and some towns along the way are included.

APRIL 9: MOSCOW TOKAZAN ROUND TRIP ON THE VOLGA (ALSO SIGHTSEEING IN LENINGRAD)

Presenter: Dick Schaffer

By the fall of 1990, the Cold War had lapsed into recent history and Gorbachev's Glasnost and Perestroika initiatives were in place, as evidenced by a small advertisement in the travel section of the Arizona Republic for a 10-day Volga River trip (for \$300 !), visiting Russian cities from Moscow to Kazan, some 800 miles downstream. We signed up for the river trip and added a private 3-day guided tour of Leningrad to follow. The trip was documented in videotape and photographs.

MAY 14: EASTERN EUROPE (SLOVAKIA, CROATIA, BOSNIA, AND HUNGARY)

Presenter: Barbara Cawthorne

We began our trip in April 2008 with an adventure crossing snow covered Alps. Our benefit was having fewer tourists. We went to Plitvice NP which has 16 lakes & many waterfalls. We walked over 5 miles through the park on established boardwalks. Heading down the Croa-

tian Coast and visiting the cities of Split & Dubrovnik took us back in time. Bosnia was overwhelmingly beautiful as we traveled through green valleys next to streams. Nearly every person living in Bosnia has lost a family member from the 1992-95 war. It was evident there was no money for restoration & many buildings are still without roofs & windows. Then into Budapest with its elegant streets & buildings; hillside castle on one side of the Danube & the city's commerce on the other.

JUNE 11: LIVING IN FRANCE: AN AMERICAN COUPLE IN BERGERAC

Presenters: Karen and Dan Cook

Living in another country isn't all about sightseeing, but the everyday goings on of normal life: buying a baguette every morning, seeing the doctor, trying to figure out what the signs on the parking lot say (usually a long version of "Don't Park on Thursday"). Karen and Dan Cook will intersperse travel photos of the Dordogne and Brittany areas of France with scenes from everyday life at their temporary home in Bergerac.

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

UUCP Budget Process

Primer

The annual budgeting process is lengthy, time consuming, and all about details! Here is the general outline of processes that happens to get our annual budget implemented:

December:

Staff conducts an analysis of current programs, potential new programs and operational needs for the next fiscal year budget.

January:

Budget subcommittee consisting of the Treasurer, Finance Chair, Minister and Administrator is formed. Other interested congregation members with an overview of the congregation's strategic plan and mission may attend. The Budget Subcommittee presents the UUCP's Operating budget to the Finance Committee for approval.

The Administrator sends budget requests to committee chairs. Budget subcommittee to receive input by January 30.

Treasurer, executive staff and administrator develop preliminary UUCP operating budget to be presented to the budget subcommittee.

The EEC committee develops their budget and presents it to the Finance committee at its March meeting.

February:

Stewardship committee, executive staff and budget subcommittee works to establish program budget for stewardship goal.

Budget subcommittee begins developing UUCP operating budget for presentation at the Finance committee's April meeting.

March:

Capital and Stewardship pledge drive.

Budget subcommittee continues developing UUCP operating budget for presentation at the Finance Committee's April meeting.

April:

Finance committee reviews UUCP operating budget and EECs budget and prepares for presentation to Board.

May:

Board presents UUCP operating budget and EEC budget at the Congregation Meeting for Congregation approval

July 1:

Effective date of UUCP Operating budget and EEC budget (fiscal year July 1 – June 30)

From the Finance Committee

For the period of July 1-October 31, 2009, we are meeting our goal of having a balanced budget. Despite the continued difficulties in several sectors of the US economy, our congregation continues their generous support. We are appreciative of those who are keeping your pledges up to date. By now, everyone should have received their quarterly reports, if you did not or have questions please contact Heidi Parmenter at the office between 9 am and 3 pm Monday through Thursday (602 840 8400) or send an email to administrator@phoenixuu.org. Below is a summary of the budget as it stands after 4 months (33% of the fiscal year).

July 1, 2009—October 31, 2009 Financial Snapshot

Category	Budget	Year to date actual	Percent of Budget
Pledge Income	\$360,000	\$118,723	33.0%
Total Income	\$680,725	\$248,527.04	36.5%
Total Expenses	\$680,725	\$239,596.70	35.2%
Net income	\$0	\$8,930.34	It's in the black!

What is Soulful Sundown?

I still hear the question: "What is Soulful Sundown?" Over two years ago, a monthly Soulful Sundown Service was created to offer an alternative to Sunday morning worship service. This vespers service was held on Sunday evenings for two years. When we moved to two Sunday morning services, we decided to move Soulful Sundown to the first Friday evening of each month from 7:00-8:00 PM.

In 2007-08 the themes for the services centered on our Seven Unitarian Universalist Principles. In 2008-09 the themes centered on the Six Sources from which Unitarian Universalist draw faith and inspiration.

This year the theme is "It's easy to love someone when you know their story." Each service will focus on a different story: October – UU Stories in America; November – Stories of Honduras with Tony Banegas; December – Stories of Transylvania with Ernie Garcia and Paula Kulina; February – Stories of our own UUCP; March – Stories of Our Own Campus Ministry with Kim St. Clair; April – Stories of the First People of AZ with Rich Wambaugh; May – Your Stories of the Past and Dreams for the Future.

Each Soulful Sundown has a time for sharing stories, joys and sorrows and lots of music. Our Soulful Sundown band has guitars, clarinet, drums, violin, bass and voices. We light our chalice in song. We sing our meditations. We sing as we take an offering. Each person present shares in parting words.

I hope you will join us for Soulful Sundown services this year. And in the tradition of Soulful Sundown, three parting words: Let love last.

Connie Jahrmarkt
Credentialed Music Leader

Soulful Sundown

First Fridays

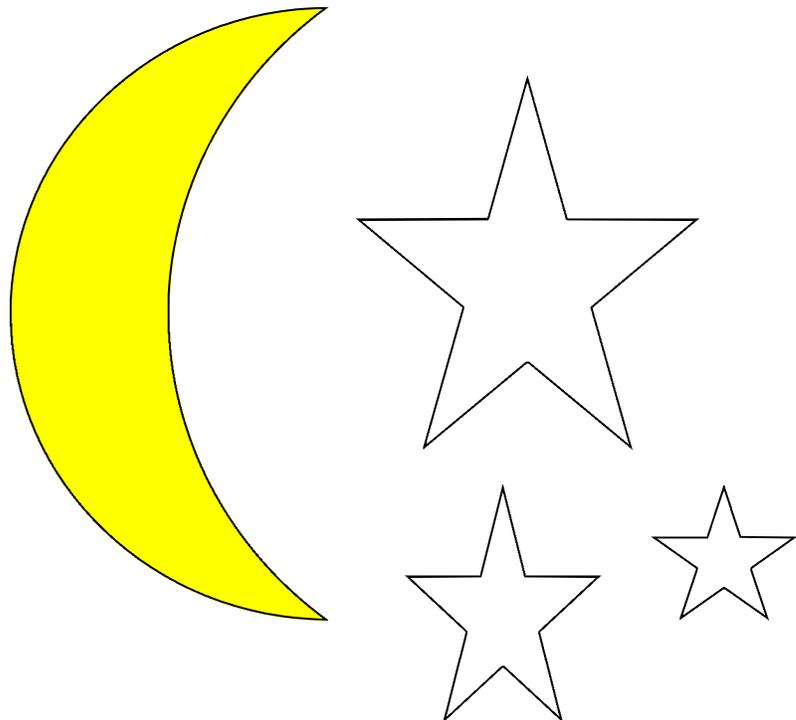
Band Rehearses at 6 PM

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.

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

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



Celebrations of Life

9:30 AM and 11:15 AM

DECEMBER 6 : A TIME OF PREPARATION

Service Leader: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

December is a time of preparation. In both the Jewish and Christian traditions, people are preparing for holy days. The season of Advent calls us to make room in our hearts for Peace, Love, Joy and Hope. As we enter the darkest part of the year, let us prepare our hearts for the season.

DECEMBER 13: CANDLES OF HOPE AND FREEDOM

Service Leader: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

The Jewish holiday of Hanukkah begins on December 11th. This holiday tells the story of the Maccabees, who were completely outnumbered, and their miraculous victory over the oppressive Syrian-Greek rulers who had outlawed Judaism. The story echoes ancient and contemporary struggles for liberation and freedom in the face of oppression.

DECEMBER 20: MULTIGENERATIONAL SOLSTICE SERVICE: THE LONGEST NIGHT

Service Leader: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, Kim St. Clair and Connie Jahrmarkt

Through singing, chanting, and candle lighting we will reflect on the ancient celebrations of the Mid-Winter Solstice and on our continued connection to the rhythms of nature and earth's changing season.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

5:30 PM Multigenerational Family Service: Nativity Pageant

Service Leaders: Susan Frederick-Gray, Kim St. Clair, Connie Jahrmarkt

7:30 PM Lessons and Carols Service

Service Leaders: Susan Frederick-Gray, Connie Jahrmarkt, UUCP Choir

DECEMBER 27 HYMN SING!

Service Leader: Connie Jahrmarkt and UUCP Choir

*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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