The beginning of another year for many people becomes a time of reflection, looking back on the ups and downs of the year that has closed behind us, and creating our resolutions for what we wish to unfold in a new and untested time.

As you set your intentions for the coming year, do you find yourself hopeful or anxious? I know that I experience both hope and anxiety in various combinations these days, depending on my mood, my energy, and what is happening around me on any given day. Although I know based on excellent evidence that the world holds both amazing resources for good and a great power for destruction, sometimes the balance between the constructive and destructive forces can seem a bit tenuous. And sometimes I just wonder.

I believe the real question that lies before us, as we create our resolutions and face the dawning of another year, is how best to use what we have—how to maximize the strength and resources we have at our disposal, rather than worrying about whether we have enough. In my experience, there are almost always more resources to work with than I see at first glance, and if I am intentional and open-minded about it, there is often a way to generate more of whatever we need, sometimes in unexpected ways.

As a professional in our liberal faith tradition, Continued on page 3

I Didn’t Mean To
Katie Resendiz

Years ago, I was a 7th grade teacher with an amazing class of 15 young adolescents. They were full of energy and intellect. One afternoon, I returned to my classroom to ring the bell and bring the students in from recess. As I approached the classroom, I noticed that the glass panel of our door was completely shattered. Glass sparkled all over the sidewalk and inside the classroom. After calling the class to me and asking a few questions, I learned that a student had been throwing rocks at the window. Not out of anger or even boredom; according to him, the new pile of landscaping rocks had seemed interesting and throwing them was fun.

When we started to talk about how to remedy the situation, the student freaked out. He would not consent to any consequences, didn’t feel like he should be held responsible at all. His classmates came to his defense telling me that there was no reason for him to have to be part of the window repair, no punishment should be discussed, and we should tape a piece of posterboard over the window and “let it just get fixed.” Their reasoning? “He didn’t mean to.”

That afternoon has stuck with me ever since. In the case of the classroom door, I might chalk it up to the developmental stage of the kids, but it’s not just kids I hear it from. In 2009, a driver shot and killed a speed camera enforcement operator. The shooter thought the camera vehicle was empty and shot at it while driving by. The public and media response overwhelmingly showed deep sympathy with the shooter. Not a beloved empathic response of “Oh no, how horrible to be in that position,” but rather a loud and clear statement the driver should not be charged with first-degree murder or drive-by shooting, because he didn’t mean to kill anyone.

Continued on page 6
Property Management Update
Heidi Parmenter

We now have smooth river rocks filling the Memorial Garden pool with the Waddell’s* blessing. This is a temporary solution until we finish the process of having the pool, deck, and statues evaluated for restoration. Porter Construction has indicated an interest in working on this project. In the new year we will sit down to discuss the restoration project.

During December’s campus work day, volunteers continued previous work started last year in clearing out dead trees and plants throughout the garden. Laurel Hardin from the Green Sanctuary team is putting together a proposal of desert-friendly plants we can plant to replace the dead vegetation. Work days for the rest of the program year are on the following Saturdays: January 20, February 17, and March 17.

This past month all the faucets in the restroom core had new aerators installed. Our hard water causes mineral buildup that clogs the aerators and makes water spray from the faucet in unfortunate directions. I am interested in finding a solution to the clouding building up on the mirrors in the bathroom core. Regular cleaning and elbow grease does not seem to be removing the cloudy film. Feel free to share any words of wisdom you might have on the topic.

Larry Duke is a handyman I hire for a lot of jobs around the campus. He does meticulous work paying close attention to detail. He restored the fascia trim on the main building and painted it brown to match our color scheme in the master plan. Now that we have had the roofs redone on the annex buildings he is going to start restoring the trim around that building as well.

* John Henry Waddell, a UU sculptor, created “That Which Might Have Been” in 1962 after the Birmingham church bombing that killed four young black girls. The statuary stand as a prayer of atonement, symbolizing the unfulfilled maturity of the four girls killed in Birmingham. They imply nobility, perseverance and hope. The negative space in the center implies the vase of a vortex reaching heavenward, suggesting the need and desire for a supernatural aid. The entire setting is meant as an earnest hope for understanding among all humankind. ☰

Pathway to Membership

Saturday, January 13
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
(lunch served)

Pathway to Membership is a class that invites you to meet with other folks considering membership, and hear more from ministers, leaders, and recently joined members about what it means to be a member of our congregation. You will have the opportunity to learn about the history of Unitarian Universalism and UUCP, get to know each other in groups, and ask questions.

The class ends with an invitation to join by signing the membership book and pledging your support. There is no pressure to join. We recognize membership is a commitment and we hope people will take their time before joining.

Register at the welcome table in the lobby, on the UUCP website, or contact janinegelsinger@phoenixUU.org.
I sometimes feel overwhelmed by the opportunities for action that present themselves each day. In these days there are so many calls for advocacy, so many invitations to show up for justice and human dignity, that I can begin to feel inadequate to the task. Perhaps others share that experience. So perhaps this start of a new year is a good time for us all to take a breath and consider the work to which we are called, the work to which we commit as people of faith, with whatever strength and resources we have.

Because I do believe that each of us has some work to do in our lifetime, work that is inspired by our deepest beliefs and values, and that can take a different form for each of us, and a different form at various stages of our lives. Our work may be to nurture, to heal, to teach; to create beauty, to spend, or to conserve; to befriend, to administer, or even just to be the best person we know how to be. Our work may include showing up at rallies or cultivating a garden; writing speeches or holding silence; it may be in partnership or alone, and it might be evident to others or invisible to all except ourselves. The exact nature of the work does not matter.

What matters is that we do that work of our hearts with integrity and compassion, and to the best of our own unique ability. And perhaps what matters even more is that we know we are enough, and that what we do in our own way makes a difference in this troubled and tumultuous world. And that we make the best use of whatever is in the glass, however much of it there might be.

And so my wish for all of us in the dawning of a new year is that we find fulfillment as we move deeply into the work to which we are called, and that we find ever new ways to work together and make a difference. It is my deep pleasure to join you in this beautiful work, and as always, I look forward to seeing you at UUCP! □

Continued from “The Best...” page 1

**Unicare News**

Please lift up in your thoughts those in our community who share their transitions, sorrows, celebrations and wishes—that they may find strength in your love and friendship. For more information, or to get involved, contact Vicki Myers, Unicare Coordinator, at unicare@phoenixuu.org.

**Remembrances:**

We remember Bob Murphy, who passed away in December. Ellie and Bob shared some cherished time as Bob’s health declined prior to his passing. Ellie appreciates the kind thoughts, cards and condolences from her UU community.

Ann Boppart, who was an active UU until she moved to Prescott, died in December. Ann’s health declined after a stroke and prior to her passing; she moved back to Phoenix to be near her daughter Marti.

**Milestone Celebrations:**

Sue and Christina Kinsman-Barnes celebrate the adoption of their daughter Aracely. They are a whole, legal family and are happy to share this joyful news with their community. Congratulations!

Sally Boyd and Katy Boxley-Boyd celebrate the birth of baby Keegan, son of Kelly & Chris Davis. Keegan is Sally’s great grandson and Katy’s grandson.

**Healing Wishes & Transitions:**

Please take a moment to hold in your thoughts, prayers, or meditations all in our UUCP community who are healing or navigating life transitions. As we welcome a new year, let us find time to intentionally support each other with kindness, compassion and love.

If you’re not on the Unicare e-Group list but interested in participating in a mealtrain to provide meals to members/friends when needed, contact unicare@phoenixuu.org. □
Toward a Strong Future

Jim Allen

As I write this, I am thinking about UUCP’s past, present and future.

To the present, Rev. Margret has brought a high level of enthusiasm, knowledge, and skills as she leads us smoothly through the transition period. The congregation members continue to be very generous. When Susan came ten years ago, our annual pledges were only $290,000 compared to $568,000 for the current fiscal year. Beyond the financial support, the congregation continues to be active in many levels as we enthusiastically move into our new Vision statement. We have a vitality and financial strength that will be very attractive to those interested in becoming our new Lead Minister. While I will not try to predict the future, I believe that our search committee, which we elect in Spring 2018, will be able to select an outstanding candidate who will have the personality and leadership matching, or perhaps exceeding, our previous Lead Minister.

In the near future, we will become more accessible and welcoming as we move along in our efforts for the large construction project. We had a strong capital campaign this past year. As I write this article, the financing for the construction loan is getting set. Larry Reed, Smoot Carl-Mitchel and I have had discussions with several financial institutions. The UUCP Finance committee compared the term sheets from two institutions and recommended receiving financing from the Mutual of Omaha, who manages our checking account and current loan, as well as the funds from the UU Foundation. The UUCP Board has accepted that recommendation and we should have the formal arrangements settled in a few weeks.

I miss Susan. She was a strong leader who gave thought-provoking sermons. She had an engaging personality, and I had many interesting conversations with her concerning a range of topics. While I think fondly of the past, I look forward with enthusiasm and optimism to the future. □

Rain Harvesting, Greywater & More

Tuesday, January 9th, 6:30 PM, Johnson Room

Green Sanctuary welcomes Ryan Mores, from the nonprofit Watershed Management Group, to speak about the programs that this group teaches and advises about. Learn about upcoming February classes on rainwater harvesting, greywater systems, contouring your property to better utilize runoff, and more.

If UUCP develops goals based on these concepts, you can learn how your service on other projects by the WMG can count for credit toward a project undertaken by UUCP.

Water affordability and conservation is also a focus of UU Justice Arizona (UUJAZ). So if you’d like to help with that team, come and speak with Laurel Hardin of Green Sanctuary.

3rd Friday Documentary: When Elephants Fight

6:30-9:00 PM, Johnson Room

A documentary that explores the history and current situation of mineral exploitation and violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo. We will be joined by Peter Mayangi from Stand With Congo to talk about advocacy efforts for bringing peace to the Congo.
“...didn’t mean to.” “It was just a joke.” “Didn’t want you to be hurt.” All given as explanations for injury. It’s as if intentions negate the impact of the action. If person A didn’t mean to hurt person B, then they shouldn’t have to deal with person B feeling hurt. The widow can just be covered with paper and “get fixed.”

I could easily extrapolate to political debates and conversations about emotional responsibility (I am a strong believer that as adults we often have a choice in our emotional/behavioral response to situations), but as a teacher that day stuck with me because it showed me what we had been modeling. Somewhere along the line, my class had learned that if the reason for the action was not specifically to cause harm, then the harm caused by the action was blameless.

GLSEN’s “Think B4 You Speak” curriculum asks students to consider the weight of derogatory language. One activity provides a scenario and asks people to give value to the different symbols presented. That question, “What mattered most for you in the moment?” brings me to our UU values. As a faith, we understand that each person finds their own path of personal meaning. If we remind ourselves that each person may find different meaning and importance for a given object or word, we can begin to make space for the different ways those words or actions affect them. By considering impact, we stop centering the perpetrator and instead focus on the needs and healing of those harmed.

When learning to consider both intent and impact, consider:

- It’s not about predicting how someone else will respond, but rather making space for them to have any response.
- We can apologize for things we did not mean to do. Our model of a two-step apology (“I’m sorry I did this; what can I do to make it better?”) will help to bring folks back into community.
- Learning to focus on impact over intent is hard; we have been socialized to forgive if the intent seems reasonable.
- Considering impact is a matter of justice; through this work we shift power from the one that caused harm to the community as it heals.

As for my classroom window, the student helped clean up the glass (no, we didn’t make him handle the shards), he and his father came in over the weekend and helped replace the window, and he repaid the class for time spent dealing with the issue via our class time bank (a system we loved that maybe deserves its own article)—and the class, ever the extreme intellects, re-read scenes of *The Tempest* to remember that Prospero’s intentions did not make the situation any less abusive.

“*Children’s Worship*” reminds us that our youngest community members come to UUCP for the same reasons we all do. They are here to explore and deepen their spiritual experiences in the world.
Good Intentions Won’t Cut It Anymore

Emrys Staton

One of the most common phrases I hear suggested for covenants at youth gatherings is “assume good intentions.” As a covenantal faith, Unitarian Universalists place a lot of value on our free will, and our ability to be mindful and respectful in our interactions with one another. Assuming good intentions is a reminder to be slow to judge the intentions of others, especially when we think someone has been careless or mean.

I have found this maxim to be useful in my life, prompting me to ask for clarification or look a little deeper into a situation. In general, I try to never make assumptions (one of the teachings of the Four Agreements). Like good journalists and lawyers, it’s wise to investigate and figure out what’s going on with someone before making any judgments at all.

However, in the past few years, whenever the “assume good intentions” concept is suggested for use in a covenant, it is always followed up with a longer discussion about the impact of our words and actions. While we may not intend to be hurtful or mean or disrespectful, we can often say things that upset each other. The impact, regardless of intention, is real, and we should be accountable to that.

I’m thinking of these two covenantal guidelines as I’m watching the #metoo movement grow. *Time Magazine* has now declared women to be the person of the year, lifting up the many courageous voices calling out countless experiences of harassment and assault.

For men and masculine-of-center people, we have a major moment of reckoning for centuries of behavior. All the jokes, whistles, stares, touches, texts, smirks, comments, and every other thing that has been directed towards women which were never intended to hurt. Or so we would like to say. But the reality is that the impact has been immensely hurtful. And we have to own that impact.

I’m not talking about the overtly mean and violent actions, where I do believe that the intent was clearly to belittle, control, and show dominance. I would not assume good intentions or give benefit of the doubt in those situations.

Women are being put into a tough situation of figuring out what kind of accountability they want from men. Is this a no-tolerance stance where anyone with a history of inappropriate and misogynistic behavior should step down from their positions? While that discussion unfolds, men also have a duty to step up to call each other out, and hold each other accountable. I often hear that “everyone knew” about a person’s behavior, but it usually doesn’t get addressed until the women—if and when they chose to—speak out.

I do believe that conversations of intention versus impact are extremely important to have, especially starting at a young age. I think UUs have a lot of wisdom to contribute in this arena, as our lived faith calls us to be accountable for our choices.

So, if you need some good discussion on this particular movement, or anything on the topic of how we own the impacts of our language and conduct, strike up a conversation with one of our teenagers. I guarantee they will have insight to share. □
Calling Enthusiastic & Dedicated Individuals!
UUCP Nominating Committee

Our Nominating Committee is beginning to plan for the upcoming elections in late spring for the UUCP Board of Trustees, Foundation Board, and Nominating Committee. Could this be the opportunity you are looking for to get more involved in achieving the mission of our congregation? Here are a few facts to get you thinking:

- The UUCP Board works closely with the Minister and is responsible for the strategic management and oversight of the congregation. The term of office is two years.
- The UU Foundation of Phoenix Board oversees the congregation’s endowment and promotes legacy giving. The term of office is three years.
- The Nominating Committee recruits candidates for the Boards and itself. The term of office is two years.

All three groups serve important roles in maintaining our congregation’s vitality and advancing its mission of building religious community, growing in spirit, sharing journeys, and advancing justice.

Primary qualifications include commitment to UUCP and its mission, creativity and energy, and the ability to communicate well with congregation members. We need people of all walks of life and perspectives.

Serving is rewarding and a way to deepen your connection to the community.

Over the coming weeks and months look for more details about our progress. In the meantime please contact any Nominating Committee member or use the general email address to obtain more information, including detailed job descriptions for each of these positions: Jenny Jones Moats (chair), Daisy Danforth, Lynne Raabe, Bill Snowden, Josh Tures, and Bonnie White, or reach out via nominating@phoenixuu.org.

Tai Chi Celebration in China

We are beginning our new series of Traveling 2nd Friday on January 12, 7:00 PM with Joan Gale. Join us in the UUCP Sanctuary for a free one-hour presentation. Bill and Joan’s trip was unlike anything you would find in a travel brochure.

“Our Tai Chi instructor, Master Tung Kai Ying, had been invited to the opening of a new town square in his home village. His students from all over the world accompanied him to demonstrate Tai Chi forms he learned in China and had been teaching since he left in the 1960s. We also were able to see many stunning and famous sites. Our photos show these sites as well as the practice, demonstration, communist influence, banquets, celebrations, and Tung family lore.”

Questions about Traveling 2nd Friday? Call Barbara Cawthorne at 480-994-1452.
### Outdoor Group Calendar for Spring 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>HIKE/ACTIVITY</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>DISTANCE</th>
<th>DIFFICULTY</th>
<th>LEADERS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Year's Day Hike</td>
<td>Dreamy Draw</td>
<td>Phoenix Mountain Preserve</td>
<td>Several Possibilities</td>
<td>Several Possibilities</td>
<td>Richard So</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1235 E Maryland Ave., Unit B, Phoenix</td>
<td>Very yummy</td>
<td>Very easy</td>
<td>Pauline Peverly</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT, JAN 13</td>
<td>New Year's Potluck</td>
<td>Usery Mountain Regional Park</td>
<td>Details to come</td>
<td>Easy to Moderate/Difficult</td>
<td>AVAILABLE FOR SIGN-UP</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT, FEB 10</td>
<td>Start at Seven Springs trailhead &amp; hike to Spur Cross trailhead. A car shuttle will be needed, details TBD.</td>
<td>Tonto National Forest</td>
<td>Info to follow</td>
<td>Info to follow</td>
<td>Marshall &amp; Julie Smart &amp; Gary Ezzell</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT, MAR 10</td>
<td>Details to come</td>
<td>McDowell Sonoran Preserve</td>
<td>Details to come</td>
<td>Details to come</td>
<td>Stephanie &amp; Todd Haughton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT, MAR 24</td>
<td>Granite Mountain</td>
<td>McDowell Sonoran Preserve</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>Easy to Medium</td>
<td>Cherie Stafford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUN, APR 8</td>
<td>Planning Potluck &amp; Bocce Ball</td>
<td>11419 N. 30th Pl., Phoenix</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bonnie &amp; Ed <a href="mailto:bwhite95065@yahoo.com">bwhite95065@yahoo.com</a> 562-889-9404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT, APR 14</td>
<td>Watson Lake Loop &amp; Peavine Trails</td>
<td>Prescott</td>
<td>4.8 miles Watson &amp; TBD Peavine</td>
<td>Moderate to Difficult &amp; Easy</td>
<td>Jenny Jones Moats &amp; Bonnie White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT, APR 28</td>
<td>CAMPOUT or overnight at a motel in Cottonwood</td>
<td>34.668865, -111.96154 BLM Land south of Cottonwood **</td>
<td>Details will be forthcoming in a flyer closer to the date</td>
<td>Several possibilities for hikes in the area. Easy and moderate.</td>
<td>Bonnie &amp; Ed will camp in a free campground on BLM land just south of Cottonwood no later than April 26. Join us on Friday night, hike Saturday at Red Rock State Park, cook-out Saturday night at the campground.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT, MAY 12</td>
<td>Horton Springs Trail</td>
<td>Tonto Nat'l Forest</td>
<td>Details to come</td>
<td>Details to come</td>
<td>Phil Slater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT, MAY 26</td>
<td>Post Season</td>
<td>AVAILABLE FOR SIGN-UP</td>
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Contact Bonnie White to be placed on the e-mail list to receive further information regarding any of the above dates or events: 562-889-9404 or outdoorgroup@phoenixuu.org.
Upcoming Adult Faith Development Classes

World Wisdoms in Dialogue
Facilitator: Gary Ezzell
2nd & 4th Thursdays from January – March, 6:45 PM – 8:15 PM in Annex H

A six-part class to explore core teachings and understandings of different spiritual and religious traditions and how they relate to Unitarian Universalism. We will look at quotes, poetry, songs, and other literature from Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Indigenous, and Unitarian Universalism.

Couples Enrichment
Facilitators: Bonnie White & Ed Cernek
Wednesday Nights, February 7 – March 14, 6:45 PM – 8:45 PM in the Johnson Room

This workshop is for couples who want to work on their relationship. Couples of all genders, length of time together and relationship status (married, partnered, engaged, cohabitating or not) are welcome. Explore how to strengthen and rejuvenate your connection. Topics include healthy communication, respecting differences, resolving conflicts, healing past hurts, relating to your larger community. Couples also explore how the 7 principles of Unitarian Universalism can create a more compassionate and deepening connection to each other.

Boundary Setting & Negotiating
Facilitators: Mary Dawes and Natalie Fabert
Thursday, March 22, 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Two-hour workshop to learn and practice skills that you can apply in the workplace and in relationships. One essential part of healthy and productive relationships is establishing good boundaries. Boundaries can be rules and principles that guide you and establish what you will or won’t allow in a relationship. Negotiation is a dialogue between people over one or more issues, intended to reach a constructive outcome. Developing these skills will reduce conflict and promote results that satisfy both/all participants.

Memorial Garden
friends whose ashes were interred in our Memorial Garden this month in past years are still remembered

James Francis Bauman
Frances Johnson Bishop
John Connair Cummings
Joanlynne Davis
Thomas Roberts Foltz, Jr.
Gertrude Posner Ganseberg
Hubert L. Gay, Jr.
Edwin Paul Grobe
Jane E. Horswell
Robert Albert Klaus
Gladys Welters Klaus
James Thomas Lynch, Jr.
Wendell Charles Manker
Gordon Woods
Introducing: The Inaugural Roots Pilgrimage!

On most international tours, you get to meet local people as you spend an afternoon or a few overnights in their homes. During these encounters, we share family photos and compare education, jobs and food. But even with translators it is difficult to go deeper with our personal thoughts, dreams for our futures and our theological beliefs. With the Roots Pilgrimage, travelers will be able to delve into these topics with a group of participants from Transylvania as we travel to historical Unitarian sites, live together and share ongoing facilitated conversations about topics important to all of us.

Lectures, panel discussions, small group conversations and spiritual practices will help Transylvanian and North American participants explore large spiritual themes. Travelers will engage with activities and discussions around cultural and theological beliefs relating to all of life. Specifically, we will discuss birth/origin, development through relationships, fulfillment, and death/grief. These topics are some of the "big" religious questions which span all life. Roots Pilgrimage gives you an amazing opportunity to explore your own faith while at the same time connecting very deeply with our siblings in faith.

If you are interested in closer connections with your partner church, if you are a religious seeker, if you want to learn about yourself, Transylvania, Unitarianism and Unitarian Universalism, this is the trip for you!

The Roots Pilgrimage was created and will be led collaboratively by the Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council and the Hungarian Unitarian Church. Information & registration: http://uupcc.org/trip/july-2018-roots-transylvania.
January Worship Theme:
Intention / Coyote

*Services bring our community together at 9:30 AM and 11:15 AM*

January 7: The More Things Change...
Service Leader: Gary Ezzell
In January we look forward and back. Today we look way back to nuggets of wisdom from traditional religious sources that we rarely make use of. While the mechanics of life have changed dramatically, the difficulties of living a good life in human society have not. Let’s go digging.

January 14: White Supremacy: Continuing the Learning
Service Leader: Rev. Margret A. O’Neall
The work of combating white supremacy culture is a critical engagement for Unitarian Universalists, as we seek to live into our values and principles. This multigenerational conversation continues the ongoing work of this congregation to be fully present to the realities of our world, working for healing and wholeness.

January 21: Right Intention: The Unfolding Conversation on Accountability
Service Leader: Emrys Staton
A look at how we talk about balancing our intentions with the impacts of our words and actions.

January 28: Intentional Democracy
Service Leader: Rev. Margret A. O’Neall
Our fifth UU principle upholds the value of democratic process in our congregations and in our society. Today as we gather for our mid-winter congregational meeting, we practice the self-governance that is our heritage and our future, foundational to our way of faith in a complex world.

*American Sign Language interpreter available at second (11:15) service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month*