

# Connections EA

April 2009

Unitarian Universalist Church of Southeastern Arizona

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**Our congregation meets every Sunday at 10:30 AM at Bella Vista Elementary School, 801 N. Lenzner Ave., Sierra Vista**  
<http://www.uuchurchseaz.org>

## Sunday Services

April 5, 2009  
Rev. Rod Richards

### ***Promise Keepers***

We are a *covenantal* congregation...but what is a *covenant*, exactly? What do we promise to one another? What happens when a promise is broken?

April 12, 2009  
Rev. Rod Richards

### ***Resurrecting Religions***

At Easter, Christians celebrate Jesus rising from the dead. Unfortunately, religions have often condoned the very sort of violence that Jesus suffered. Might we hope that religion itself could be reborn into a loving and compassionate force in the world rather than a source of misunderstanding and brutal strife?

April 19, 2009  
***Inherent Worth of Earth***

Join us as we celebrate Earth Day with reflections on sustainable lifestyles and the interdependent web of all life.

April 26, 2009  
Rev. Rod Richards

### ***The Great Transformation: Buddha's Birthday***

Sometimes called the Axial Age, the period that spans roughly 900 B.C.E. to 200 B.C.E., witnessed the birth and expansion of Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism and Judaism. In a period of violence, political disruption and religious intolerance, these religions responded by exalting compassion, love and justice over selfishness and hatred.



## Rod's Reflections

### Compassion in Fashion

The second of our seven principles says this: We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote justice, equity and compassion in human relations.

In an August 2006 sermon, I bemoaned the fact that the word *compassion* seemed to have vanished from political debate and widespread societal practice. Though individuals often acted out of the most profound compassion, I worried that, as a society, we had cut ourselves off from it; that we were encouraged to actively push it away from any serious consideration of our health as a nation; that we had relegated it to a pipe dream of idealists that had nothing to do with the real world; that we had willingly cut ourselves off from compassion as an impracticality at best and a weakness at worst, a tendency we could choose to indulge once we had dealt with the hard issues.

I am happy to report that it feels to me, in the spring of 2009, like this is changing. In the midst of the present economic crises, set against the ongoing challenges that people face across the world, compassion is suddenly moving toward the center of the discussion. The realization is growing that compassion is not an idle pastime to be taken up once everything is fixed, but the very tool by which we might fix things. The interdependence of all life is increasingly seen as, not an airy spiritual affirmation, but a practical reality that we must accept as the groundwork of planning for the future of humanity.

“Compassion doesn't mean feeling sorry for people. It doesn't mean pity. It means putting yourself in the position of the other, learning about the other. Learning what's motivating the other, learning about their grievances,” said religious scholar, Karen Armstrong, in an interview with Bill Moyers. That sort of education is no longer optional. If humanity is to survive its present difficulties, compassion is vital. This is why Karen Armstrong has helped to organize the Charter for Compassion (<http://charterforcompassion.com/>), which seeks to engage all faiths and ethical philosophies in affirming the centrality of compassion in their traditions.

*The Charter will show that the voice of negativity and violence so often associated with religion is the minority and that the voice of compassion is the majority.*

*Compassion is not just a feeling. It must constantly be translated intelligently into practical, concrete action.*

*Cont. on pg. 2*

The *UUCSEA Connection* is published monthly by the *Unitarian Universalist Church of Southeastern Arizona*. The church can be contacted by writing to P.O. Box 3123, Sierra Vista, AZ 85636-3123, by e-mailing [uucsea@yahoo.com](mailto:uucsea@yahoo.com), or by calling **520/378-0197**.

Visit our web site at [www.uuchurchseaz.org](http://www.uuchurchseaz.org).

Current members of the

**UUCSEA Board of Directors** are:

President: Sharon Covey  
 Secretary: Jerry Covey  
 Treasurer: Carol Hanrahan  
 Board Members are:  
 Jim Horton  
 Sue Speicher  
 Terry Erickson  
 Burt Jones

Monthly Board meeting is usually the first Tuesday at 3:00 at the UUCSEA Office. Meetings are open to members and friends.

Team Contacts are:

Book Group: Ed & Ellie Waters  
 Web Calendar: Rouanna Garden  
 Caring Ministry: Karen Horton  
 Cinema Circle: Gary Rulapaugh  
 Circulo de Amigas: Jean MacKeen

Committee on Ministry:

Max Frye  
 Patricia Burr  
 Lorraine Groberg

Communications Team: Jerry Covey

District and Association Information:

Finance: Morris Farr  
 Flowers: Virginia Farrar

Greeters:

Margaret Carlstrom

Legacy Program: Therese Erickson

Library:

Membership: Molly Anderson  
 Music Director: Sharon Douglas

Nominating Committee:

Mitzi Jones  
 Patricia Burr  
 Jay Jenkins

Pledge Chair: Morris Farr

Refreshments:

Religious Education: Heather Kutch

Social Action: Burt Jones

Social Events Director: Rouanna Garden

Sunday Services: Rev. Rod Richards

Web Site: Kerry Hales

Not in the congregational directory? Members and friends of UUCSEA are invited to submit their contact information to Jerry Covey for inclusion in our password-protected online directory. Printed copies are available by request.

The deadline for articles to be included in a newsletter is the 15th of each month. Please e-mail articles, announcements, personal news, upcoming events, etc. to [uucsea.admin@gmail.com](mailto:uucsea.admin@gmail.com).



## President Presents

### Sharon Covey, Board President

#### Spring and Renewal

"I feel good here, with these people." Many things must come together to create a community and a sense of place. Springtime at UUCSEA is a time of renewal and recommitment. We elect a new board, we budget and plan for the coming year, we renew our financial commitment and this year we are also looking at a comprehensive review of our bylaws.

In our bylaws discussions we spent some time on membership requirements and essentially made few changes. Anyone who is at least 18 years old, signs the membership book and pledges support is a member. I decided to explore other UU church bylaws and found many have specific requirements for membership. The most common are: attend church regularly, participate in church life, practice our principles and make a financial pledge. I was quite surprised to find that many congregations define voting membership as individuals who have made a "contribution of record." I believe part of the reasoning is to establish a figure for planning a realistic budget. The collection plates fluctuate and cannot be used for planning.

Many churches are using the UUA Fair Share Pledge Guide to help congregants determine their pledge amount. Our UUA consultant, Mary Gleason, suggested that we make the Fair Share Guide available and I have included it in this newsletter. Pledging is not a stated requirement of being a member of UUCSEA and no person should ever feel excluded in the life of our community if they are unable to give financially. I do, however, feel quite strongly that no one should make assumptions about another person's pocketbook or ability to give. It is erroneous to think that the poor do not make charitable donations. Study after study has shown that the working poor are the most generous of all income levels in terms of the percentage of their income given to charities. Per capita giving was highest during the depression of the 1930's. Giving is how we pull together as a group. Giving is how we express our values.

We may not have a "mega church" building but we are known in the community as a generous group of caring people. I take great pleasure in identifying myself with UUCSEA.

Sharon Covey, Board President

#### *Rod's Reflections, cont.*

Affirming and promoting compassion in human relations, we too are involved in the work of translating compassion into practical, concrete action.

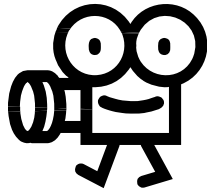
Unlike other fashion trends, this spring's fashion may last well beyond the season...so may it be.

See you on Sunday,  
 Rod  
[rrichards@uuma.org](mailto:rrichards@uuma.org)

## Cinema Circle

The next Cinema Circle film will be on Friday April 3rd at 7:00 P.M. The film will be "Man on Wire." A member of the Congregation suggested this film. It is an Oscar winning documentary about the tightrope walker Philippe Petit's daring, but illegal, high-wire routine performed between New York City's World Trade Center's twin towers in 1974, what some consider, "the artistic crime of the century."

The film will be at 2148 Remington Drive, Sierra Vista 85635. Remington Drive is off of Avenida Cochise. Remington Drive is the second right turn, up the hill from Home Depot. Please call 439-2830 for further directions.



## UU Kids Corner

Thanks to Terry Erickson for putting on our first "Kids Corner Event" on Saturday, March 21.

Woodworking (gluing and screwing) were the activities of the day. The kids made Wren houses that they got to keep. All the girls decorated their houses; the boys did not.



Saturday, April 18th: Burt's Cooking School opens its doors for the first time. Kids, please arrive at Burt's house just before 1pm. If you have one, an apron could be useful in a cooking class.

PARENTS: Please RSVP to Burt Jones one week in advance at 378-6408.

## Soup and Bread Sunday

Thanks to all of you that helped to make the Soup Sunday a special Social and Fundraising Event. We all had a great lunch while the fund made almost \$5.00 per person.

I want to especially thank the other soup makers Sharon Douglas, Jondi Nelson and Georgia Neilson and Rouanna Garden for her willingness to help me at every speed bump in the road. Anyone wanting to sign up to be a soup or salad maker please call me at 803-9260. REMEMBER no one will be asked to make soup or salad more than once a year. Anyone needing a large soup kettle can borrow mine

Next months soup makers will be Beverly Hart, Karen Horton, Heather Kutch and Suzanne Stoffolano. Come to the Service and Stay for the Lunch (on the Second Sunday of the Month).



— Therese Erickson

## MINISTER'S "OFFICE HOURS" AND SCHEDULE:

Rod will have regular office hours on Wednesdays from 1 PM – 5 PM and Fridays from 10 AM – 2 PM. Members, friends, or visitors to the congregation are invited to call (378-0197) or email ([r-richards@uuma.org](mailto:r-richards@uuma.org)) Rod to schedule appointments. Monday is Rod's day off.

Rod will be on study leave from April 14 to April 21.

**ROD ON THE RADIO:** "The Magic Eye" airs live in Old Bisbee on KBRP-LP 96.1, Wednesdays 11AM - noon and Sundays (rebroadcast) 5-6 PM. All those with Internet access can hear the show during those times by visiting the KBRP web site at <http://www.kbrpradio.com>.



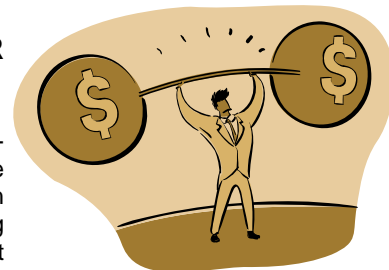
**THE SUNDAY SERVICES MEETING** is at 1:00 pm on the first Tuesday of each month at the UUCSEA Office.

**LOOKING TO SIGN UP...**for anything? ALL of the sign up sheets for a whole host of volunteer opportunities are on a back table at each Sunday Service with the sign that says "Opportunities to Serve." The blank spaces on the "Team Contacts" list on the second page are open opportunities. **We need you!**

## PLEDGE DRIVE FOR UUCSEA

Our Pledge Drive for 2009-2010 will run through the month of April and end in May. Immediately following our congregational budget approval meeting on

SUNDAY APRIL 5TH we will enjoy a Kickoff Party at David and Lorraine Groberg's home at 5363 S. Calle Metate, Sierra Vista. (A map will be provided.) After all the pledges have been made, we will again celebrate with a Victory Celebration meal and entertainment on SATURDAY MAY 9TH at Sharon and Jerry Covey's home. (A map will be provided.) Some have suggested an afternoon party rather than a late evening party. Many of you will be asked to help in some way to make this pledge campaign a success. Please circle those two dates on your calendar so you can take part in these fun and important community events. Call Lorraine or David at 803-9262 or e-mail us at [dgroberg@cox.net](mailto:dgroberg@cox.net) for information or ideas.



**WhaleCoast Alaska 2009:** The WhaleCoast Alaska registration deadline has been extended to April 15. Five Alaskan UU fellowships invite you to experience our program featuring UU homestays, Native Alaskan culture, bears, whales, and other wildlife. For more information, visit [www.whalecoastak.org](http://www.whalecoastak.org), email [dfrey@whalecoastak.org](mailto:dfrey@whalecoastak.org), or call 907-322-4966. Alaska UUs would love to share our awe-inspiring state with you!

## UUCSEA News and Notes

### Book Club

(Note: After each book A.=Amazon, prices may change ; L.= Cochise Cty. Libraries)

**April 19 -The Post American World** by Fareed Zakaria, review by Mitzi Jones. Mr. Zakaria presents the lay reader with a lucid picture of a globalized world and the role of the U.S. in it, a world that is changing with lightening speed. He thinks the U.S. can maintain its vibrant economy despite sharp changes and inefficiencies in it. He advocates trimming spending, increase savings, expand science and technology training, secure pensions, fix immigration policies and achieve efficiencies in energy. The central challenge is to deter any Chinese expansionism and aggression and find ways to accommodate that country. He skims over the Iraq War and sees support for Al Qaeda falling; questionable assertions. (A. from 14.98 – L. 4 copies)



**May 17 - Out Stealing Horses** by Per Peterson, review by Lorraine Groberg This story is told by 67 year-old Trond Sander, a widower, who has recently moved to a remote cottage in the countryside beyond Oslo, where he believes he has found a place he can die happily and alone. In talking with a neighbor, a chain of memories begins that takes Trond back to a summer he spent with his father in a cabin in 1948. The book addresses interior conflicts and reveals the true nature of human relationships and shows how males can express feelings of love. (A. from 7.45 --L. 3 copies)

**June 21 -Three Cups of Tea** by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin, review by Ann Danell. Greg's mountain climbing event was interrupted by a need to rescue a companion. This ordeal took much out of Mortenson who got lost and accidentally came across a small village whose people took care of him. This is a story of how he was able to repay them by building schools for their village and others in rural Pakistan and Afghanistan. (A. from 6.95 – L. 6 copies)

The Book Group meets the 3rd Sunday of each month, at 2:30 PM at the UUCSEA Office. You are welcome whether or not you have read the book. ??? Ed and Ellie Waters, 459-3390 or edellie@intergate.com.



### A NEW GUIDELINE...

...when e-mailing items for the **Order of Service, Newsletter, or Web Calendar**, please write the subject followed by where it is to be printed.

Example: Hotdog luncheon—Newsletter, Order of Service and Web Calendar

Hymn # 32—Order of Service

Send all e-mails to [uucsea.admin@gmail.com](mailto:uucsea.admin@gmail.com)

### April Days of Power

1 April - April Fool's Day  
9 April - Full Moon (Wind Moon)  
15 April - Celtic Tree Month of Willow  
(for the UUCSEA Druids)  
24 April - New Moon

— Debra Hoyle



### Good Neighbor Alliance

The UUCSEA cooks at the Good Neighbor Alliance on the 3rd Monday every month. Volunteers are needed to help prepare the dinner for homeless guests that are staying at the shelter.

Please prepare the dinner, starting at 4pm and it should be ready to serve at 6pm. The bonus here is that volunteers don't have to do the dishes...unless they really want to. Please contact Ann Danell (456-0183) for further details.

There are other available days for cooking at Good Neighbor Alliance for each month. If you are interested in cooking, then sign-up please. A list of those dates will be given to Mitzi Jones, so please contact her for further information at 378-6408.

### Happy Birthday to You!

**11 - Roz Carroll**  
**27 - Merilyn Nance**



**WOMEN'S BREAKFAST BUNCH** meets at the Lon-estar Café (Hwy 92 and Hereford Rd) at 9 AM the 2nd Fri. each month (Apr. 10). All women welcome - come for the fun of it!! Call Margaret for info: 458-1237.

**UU MEN'S LUNCHEON** is held every 3rd Thurs. (Apr. 16) at 11:30 AM at the Landmark Café, located at 400 W. Fry Boulevard.

**THE BOARD MEETING** will meet the first Tuesday in April (April 7) at 3 PM at the UUCSEA Office.

**NEWSLETTERS** will no longer be labeled but will be available for pickup at the name tag / hymnal table. If you **MUST** have a hard copy mailed, please contact Margaret Carlstrom @458-1237 or Jerry Covey.

**Unitarian Universalist Association  
Congregational Fundraising Services  
New Suggested Fair-Share Giving Guide**

	<b>Supporter</b> The church is a significant part of my life and promotes my spiritual growth.			<b>Sustainer</b> The church is central to my identity, and I am committed to sustaining our programs.			<b>Visionary</b> I am committed to both the present and future growth of my church.			<b>Full Tithe</b> I designate 10% of my income to the church as a way to live out my spiritual principles		
Ad-justed Annual In-come	Sug-gested	Month ly	An-nual	Suggested	Month ly	An-nual	Sug-gested	Month ly	An-nual	Sug-gested	Month ly	An-nual
	% of Income	Pay-ment	Pay-ment	% of Income	Pay-ment	Pay-ment	% of Income	Pay-ment	Pay-ment	% of Income	Pay-ment	Pay-ment
\$10,000	2%	\$16	\$200	3%	\$25	\$300	5%	\$42	\$500	10%	\$83	\$1,000
\$25,000	2%	\$42	\$500	3%	\$63	\$750	5%	\$104	\$1,250	10%	\$208	\$2,500
\$50,000	3%	\$125	\$1,500	4%	\$167	\$2,000	5%	\$208	\$2,500	10%	\$417	\$5,000
\$75,000	3%	\$188	\$2,250	4.5%	\$281	\$3,375	6%	\$375	\$4,500	10%	\$625	\$7,500
\$100,000	3.5%	\$292	\$3,500	5%	\$417	\$5,000	6.5%	\$542	\$6,500	10%	\$833	\$10,000
\$150,000	3.5%	\$438	\$5,250	5%	\$625	\$7,500	6.5%	\$813	\$9,750	10%	\$1,250	\$15,000
\$200,000	4%	\$667	\$8,000	5.5%	\$917	\$11,000	7%	\$1,167	\$14,000	10%	\$1,667	\$20,000
\$300,000	5%	\$1,250	\$15,000	6%	\$1,500	\$18,000	8%	\$2,000	\$24,000	10%	\$2,500	\$30,000
\$400,000	6%	\$2,000	\$24,000	7%	\$2,333	\$28,000	8.5%	\$2,833	\$34,000	10%	\$3,333	\$40,000
\$500,000	7%	\$2,917	\$35,000	8%	\$3,333	\$40,000	9%	\$3,750	\$45,000	10%	\$4,167	\$50,000

**UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH**

The UUA General Assembly will occur in Salt Lake City from June 24-28. This year, General Assembly will be highlighted by the addition of UU University, a superb lay leadership training opportunity, as part of GA programming - at no additional cost. A new UUA President will be elected at General Assembly, and Melissa Harris-Lacewell, Associate Professor of Politics and African American Studies at Princeton University and a frequent media commentator, will deliver this year's Ware Lecture. The Assembly will also vote on whether to adopt a new Statement of Conscience, on Peacemaking.

Registration and Housing Reservations for General Assembly are now open. Go to <http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/index.shtml> for links to information on all parts of the upcoming General Assembly program.

**CIRCLE SUPPERS ARE BACK!  
Sign Up and Get To Know Your Fellow UUCSEA Members**

For those who are new to our church, **Circle Suppers** are a series of potluck dinners held in private homes for 6-8 people. These dinners give our long-time members and our newer members a chance to spend an evening together over a meal and to become better acquainted with one another. When you sign up, you will have an opportunity to participate as a guest and, if you choose, as a host for one of these dinners; it is **not necessary to take a turn as a host in order to participate**.

We'll work out a schedule and call the host or hosts with a list of 4-6 people to contact. The host will be given at least a month to 6 weeks notice so he or she can contact the guests and work out the logistics: date, time, place, etc. It is usually easier if the host decides on the entrée and then arranges with the invitees to bring side dishes, dessert, etc.

Questions? Call Virginia at 458-6284 or call or email at 803-9197 or [psburr@msn.com](mailto:psburr@msn.com).

**The mission of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Southeastern Arizona is:**

To create a welcoming community of caring people where all receive emotional support, intellectual stimulation, and respect for their individual spiritual paths; to work for justice and equality in our community and the world; to increase respect for the natural environment; and to promote the principles of Unitarian Universalism.

**The Unitarian Universalist Church of Southeastern Arizona affirms and promotes:**

- the inherent worth and dignity of every person
- justice, equity and compassion in human relations
- acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
- a free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
- the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
- respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

**Unitarian Universalist Church  
of Southeastern Arizona  
P.O. Box 3123  
Sierra Vista, Arizona 85636-3123**

