

Connections EEA

August 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 / August 2009

August 2, 2009

UU Journeys

Come hear members share their personal journeys to our UU congregation. This service is always valuable, providing insight into the spiritual paths that members and friends of UUCSEA have followed.

August 9, 2009

Rev. Rod Richards

Welcoming LGBT

What do those letters mean? What is the "Welcoming Congregation" program? Aren't we *already* welcoming? Can't we just *assume* that everyone is welcome?

August 16, 2009

Rev. Rod Richards

The Invention of Air

Billed as "a story of science, faith, revolution, and the birth of America," Steven Johnson's book is the story of Joseph Priestley, who is particularly important to our tradition as he helped to found Unitarianism in England and the United States.

August 23, 2009

Rev. Rod Richards

Qur'an

It is one of those books that changed the world, yet many find it confusing, frightening, or impenetrable. We'll take a look at the history of this text and how it is being viewed from many different viewpoints today.

August 30, 2009

Rev. Rod Richards

La Luna Tunes

We are most grateful to have the women of La Luna Tunes, an a capella trio from Bisbee, return to share their beautiful music with us and to lead us in song.



Rod's Reflections

I (Promise Not To) Feel Your Pain

I've been watching some of the Senate confirmation hearings for Supreme Court nominee (maybe confirmed by the time you read this?), Sonia Sotomayor. One of the interesting topics of conversation is one that figures prominently in religious and ethical communities such as our own congregation: empathy.

President Obama said that empathy was one of the qualities he looked for in a nominee, the "empathy to recognize what it's like to be a young, teenaged mom; the empathy to understand what it's like to be poor or African-American or gay or disabled or old." Judge Sotomayor made statements in the past acknowledging the way that identity, ethnic background, and personal experience shape decisions and suggesting the superior quality of a decision made by a wise Latina woman over the decision of a white male. Many Senators are upset with Sotomayor's latter suggestion (which I kind of understand) and troubled by the very idea of empathy entering into legal judgments (which I don't quite understand).

Empathy is being treated with great suspicion as some sort of "poison in the well" of judicial impartiality, leading Arizona's Senator Kyl to ask: "Have you always been able to have a legal basis for the decisions that you have rendered and not have to rely upon some extra-legal concept, such as empathy or some other concept other than a legal interpretation or precedent?" To which Sotomayor replied, "Exactly, sir. We apply law to facts. We don't apply feelings to facts. . . ."

My concern in this exchange--and many more like it splashed across our television screens and filling up the news reports--is that *empathy* is being distorted beyond recognition. This has wider (and unfortunate) implications for how we understand empathy in our society, in our personal lives. Empathy is being equated with bias; prejudice; a selfish, self-absorbed *feeling* that narrows our vision and clouds our best judgment. Empathy, in my understanding, is precisely *an antidote* for prejudice and vision that is narrowed by selfishness and self-absorption. It is an intentional stepping-outside of one's own viewpoint to attempt to see the world from another's eyes; to imagine oneself in their situation; to find the connecting links of humanity that allow us to bridge even the seemingly unbridgeable chasm of difference. Empathy is not just a *feeling* that washes over us, but a spiritual practice; an ethical exercise that we engage willingly so as to increase our understanding of one another and the world we live in.

"Call it empathy, call it prejudice, or call it sympathy, but whatever it is, it's not law," said Senator Jeff Sessions in his opening statements. I don't pretend to be a legal expert, so I won't comment on what *is* law. I will say that whatever it is that he means to exclude from the law, judging by the way he has sought to define it, *it's not empathy*.

If our elected representatives ever find out what it means, they may consider exploring its possibilities in establishing a just and equitable society. Empathy, in its truest and best form, is not something to guard against. Indeed, we are dying from the lack of it.

See you on Sunday,
Rod
richards@uuma.org

The *UUCSEA Connections* 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

UUCSEA OFFICE

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Website: www.uuchurchseaz.org

Visit our web site at www.uuchurchseaz.org.

Current members of the

UUCSEA Board of Directors are:

President: Terry Zapotocky

Secretary: Pamela Lee

Treasurer: Danielle Mackenzie

Board Members are:

Jim Horton

Wally Hoggatt

Terry Erickson

Suzanne Stoffolano

Board meeting will be held August 20 at 6 PM at the UUCSEA Office. Meetings are open to members and friends.

Congregation Contacts:

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:

Lorraine Groberg

Patricia Burr

Max Frye

Communications, Directory, Emails, District and

Association Information: Debra Hoyle

(uucsea.communications@gmail.com)

Finance: Morris Farr

Flowers: Virginia Farrar

Greeters: Margaret Carlstrom

Library: Terry Zapotocky

Membership:

Music Director: Sharon Douglas

Office Manager: Jay Jenkins

(om.uucsea@gmail.com)

Newsletter: Ellen Taylor

(uucsea.admin@gmail.com)

Pledge Chair: Carol Hanrahan

Religious Education: Heather Kutch

Social Action: Burt Jones

Social Events Director: Rouanna Garden

Sunday Services:

Web Site: Kerry Hales

From She Who Must Be Obeyed

Terry Zapotocky, Board President



August Newsletter

The big news is, we have a treasurer! On July 2 the Board selected Danielle Mackenzie as Treasurer, and she has already put in a lot of time and effort getting a system set up that works for her and for our bookkeeper and transferring record keeping from Carol Hanrahan to herself. Thank you Danielle for taking on the job and thank you Carol for helping with the transition.

Hopefully by the time you read this, the situation will have been resolved, but the Membership Committee is in need of members. For various reasons Phyllis Prickett, Jean MacKeen and Molly Anderson are no longer serving on the committee. Thanks to all three of you for many years of excellent service. This leaves 2 people on the committee, one of whom is out of town until the middle of October. One person does not a committee make. The Membership Committee meets only quarterly. The purpose of this committee is to aid in attracting and recruiting visitors and making them feel welcome. Some of the duties of the committee are to train greeters, make up new member packets, and provide literature for visitors. I'm not making all this stuff up; I plagiarized it from our policy for the Membership Ministry. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact yours truly.

One person I'd like to thank is Keeta Helmstetter, who cleans our office every week for free. Another is Jay Jenkins. As I write this, Jay has just agreed to take on the job of Office Manager. He will be responsible for managing the physical upkeep of the office, for scheduling computer use so three people all don't show up at the same time trying to use the one computer, and for scheduling office use. Jay is also the one who transports our banners back and forth from the office to the school for Sunday services.

Speaking of the office, if you decide to buy tissues, paper towels or TP for the office, please purchase products made from recycled paper. This is in keeping with our mission statement "to increase respect for the natural environment". This is also in line with our 7th Principle; "respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part". Let's not be responsible for contributing to the further deforestation of our fragile planet.

Next there is the issue of communications. The work of the Communications Committee has become so large, it will now be divided between 5 people. Just think Jerry Covey, you were doing the work of 5 people! Kerry Hales will take care of computer issues and the web page. Patricia Burr will be the media contact for the congregation. She will take care of radio, newspaper, telephone directory ads + publicity and press releases. Ellen Taylor with the help of Ed and Ellie Waters will be responsible for the monthly newsletter. Rouanna Garden will be in charge of the church calendar linked to our web site. Debra Hoyle will be in charge of everything else including keeping the membership list updated. The nice thing is, all church communications can be sent to one email address. Uucsea.admin@gmail.com Please, for the sake of our volunteers, headline any email with a subject such as OOS (order of service), newsletter, member information change, calendar, etc. As this goes to press, I find there is one exception. Email to be distributed to the congregation should be sent to uucsea.communications@gmail.com.

Cont' on Pg 3

President cont' from pg 2

Danielle Mackenzie and committee members are planning how to implement the steps towards making us an official Welcoming Congregation for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals and couples—a population much discriminated against. Let's start by being cordial to everyone, especially each other. One thoughtless word or gesture can cause a lot of harm. "By swallowing evil words unsaid, no one has ever harmed his stomach".
Winston Churchill

Finally, the June newsletter for the Kid's Corner had a clip art picture of a goose to represent the trip the children made to my little farm. That picture was of an Egyptian goose. So just to set the record straight, I do not have any Egyptian geese, only 2 Chinese and 1 Embden. Our wonderful minister chose the clip art, and he evidently knows nothing about geese: theology, philosophy, psychology, sermons, books, ethics, people, computers, science fiction—yes, geese—no.

Thanks to all of you for putting up with my weird sense of humor and for making our congregation the welcoming assemblage that it is.

Terry Zapotocky

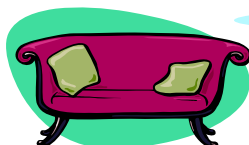
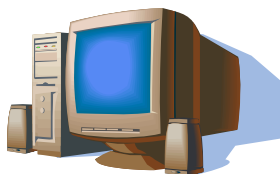
Board Meeting

The next board meeting is August 20 at 6PM at the church office 1020 E Fry Blvd.



Office News

Jay Jenkins is now our office manager. He will be responsible for the physical upkeep of the office and for scheduling office and computer use. Contact Jay at Ph. 432-9024. Cell 249-7951.
om.uucsea@gmail.com.



Miscellaneous Scheduling and Announcements

NEW CONTACT INFORMATION:

The church phone number remains the same (378-0197) but will now ring at the office. Volunteers will answer during office hours. You may also leave messages if no one is available to answer.



To reach Rod directly, the phone number is 732-4770.

The church email for order of service announcements, calendar updates, newsletter submissions, etc. is uucsea.admin@gmail.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: We will do our best to get all current and pertinent announcements printed in the order of service. However, if there are announcements that need to be verbally announced at the service, we ask that you get these to us in written format, either by email (uucsea.admin@gmail.com) or using the forms that will be available prior to the service. Brief information on What, When, Where and Who is all that we need. They will be collected at 10:25 AM by the service facilitator.

MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS & SCHEDULE: Rod's regular office hours are Wednesdays from 1 PM – 5 PM and Fridays from 10 AM – 2 PM. Members, friends, or visitors to the congregation are invited to call (732-4770) or email (r-richards@uuma.org) Rod to schedule appointments. Monday is Rod's day off.

Rod will be gone from Aug. 27 – Sept. 4. Use the contact information above to contact him in case of emergencies or urgent matters.

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>.

AFTER WORDS: Would you like to share your reflections on something you heard in the service you just attended? Or last Sunday's sermon? Do you have questions about Unitarian Universalism? About our congregation? Join us at the UUCSEA Office on the second Sunday of the month (August 9) at 1:00 PM for an informal conversation about what's on your mind. A special invitation goes out to newer members and visitors who would like to learn more about our congregation and our liberal religious tradition. I look forward to seeing you there. —Rod



UUCSEA Activities

Book Club

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

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August 16 - Energy Victory: Winning the War on Terror by Breaking Free of Oil by Robert Zubrin, review by Rita Aronna – Venezuela's Hugo Chavez says he wants to send oil to \$200 a barrel. An American aerospace engineer known for his inventive approach to Mars exploration turns around the world energy situation by combining soaring idealism, incisive thinking, and a viscous go-for-throat killer instinct in a single package. (A. from 14.34 – L. 0 copies)

September 20 - When the Mississippi Ran Backwards: Empire, Intrigue Murder and the New Madrid Earthquakes I by Jay Feldman review by Rouanna Garden. "This book sheds light on this now-obscure yet pivotal period between the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, uncovering the era's dramatic geophysical, political and military upheavals. Feldman paints a vivid picture of how these powerful earthquakes made an impact on every aspect of frontier life – and why similar catastrophic quakes are guaranteed to recur. (A. from 6.40 – L.2 copies)

October 15 – Mister Pip by Lloyd Jones review by Jeanne Landwehr. Mister Pip is the compelling story of a girl caught in the throes of war on the island of Bougainville in Papua New Guinea. A fictional creation from the mind of Charles Dickens himself, Pip helps Matilda maintain a desire to live, especially after her mother, the wise Mr. Watts, and her island ceased to exist. (Jeanne will pick up copies at the library and make them available.)

The Book Group meets the 3rd Sunday of each month, 2:30 to 4:00 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.

Good Neighbor Alliance

The UUCSEA cooks at the Good Neighbor Alliance on the 3rd Monday every month. Volunteers are always 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 see Ann Danell at 456-0183 for further details.



There are also 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 see her for further details.

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST BUNCH meets at the Lonestar Café (Hwy 92 and Hereford Rd) at 9 AM the 2nd Fri. each month (Aug 14). All women welcome - come for the fun of it!! Call Margaret for info: 458-1237.



UU MEN'S LUNCHEON is held every 3rd Thurs. (Aug 20) at 11:30 AM at the Landmark Café, located at 400 W. Fry Boulevard.



Cinema Circle

The Cinema Circle film will resume on Friday August 7th at 7:00 P.M. I stumbled across a lovely film called "Sweet Land. It is about a German mail-order bride who comes to Minnesota in the 1920's and struggles to overcome anti-German prejudice. The man she is to marry is a Norwegian Bachelor Farmer just like those Garrison Keillor talks about. Netflix describes the film as a triumph of love over ignorance.



The film will be at 2148 Remington Drive, Sierra Vista 85635. Remington Drive is off Avenida Cochise. Remington Drive is the second right turn, up the hill from Home

UU Kids Corner

This month (August) Shirley Sandy will be doing a Decoupage project with our UU Kids on Saturday the 15th. Suzanne Stoffolano has offered to donate cigar boxes, to be turned into treasure boxes. Meet at our UU Office from 1 to 4 pm. Parents, please RSVP with Shirley at 458-5327.



Happy Birthday to You! August Birthdays

August 8
Carolyn Edwards
August 18
Edna Weigel



If your birthday has not been listed and you would like it listed, please email uucsea.admin@gmail.com.

UUCSEA News, Information and Opportunities

Communications Committee

First off...I want to introduce myself to everyone. My name is Debra Hoyle and I am the new UUCSEA Communication Chair. I am eager to serve all...so I say hello to each and everyone.



I am in charge of the Member & Friends Directory and I am also the person that sends out the emails that are shared within the congregation. I will also bringing a hard copy of the directory during church time, so that everyone can come and say hello and give me the updates so I can correct and put a new Member & Friend Directory soon.

Soup Sunday

It is with great taste left in my mouth and a full stomach that I thank the chefs, Jan Boucher, Joyce Carpenter, Carolyn Edwards, Maria Giehm and Tricia Gerrodette for this last months Salad Sunday. I have been remiss in not reminding everyone to thank our cooks every month. They work hard and would love to hear a Thank You from all of you.



After paying for expenses and for our new set of 100 salad plates we still made \$192.00. We need to remember (I need to) that it is summer and a lot of our friends are away.

In August, we will be served by: Virginia Erickson, Rouanna Garden, Lorraine Groberg, and Edna Weigel. Thanks again to everyone who has agreed to be a part of this event. We are still in need of five more chefs. Two for September, two for December and one for February. You can call Therese Erickson at 803-9260.

Pictured are Rouanna Garden, Sue Speicher and Susan Fawcett with their first quilt. Ann Danell also worked on the quilt but was not present for the picture.

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.



August Days of Power

1 August - Lamas or Lughnasadh
6 August - Full Moon (Corn Moon or a Healing Moon)
6 August - Celtic Tree Month of Hazel (for the UUCSEA Druids)
6 August - Lunar Eclipse
20 August - New Moon
22 August - Ramadan Begin



Lamas/Lughnasadh marks the middle of summer and beginning of the harvest season. This day originally coincided with the first reapings of the harvest. It is considered a time of thanksgiving and is the first of the three Pagan harvest festivals. The Sun's strength begins to wane and the plants of spring begin to wither and drop their fruits or seeds for our use as well as to ensure future crops. At this time, we become conscious of the sacrifice the Sun God is preparing to make. We experience a sense of abundance at the same time we begin to feel an urgency to prepare for the death of winter. First grains and fruits of the Earth are cut and stored for the dark winter months.

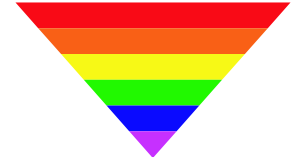
— Debra Hoyle

Quilting Group

Karen Horton has formed a quilting group to make quilts for charity. She loves to quilt and teaches quilting and has all the supplies and tools. No experience necessary. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 9-12 at the office. Come learn new skills, socialize and help others. Everyone is welcome. Contact Karen at 378-2460. .



Welcoming Congregation



Why am I participating in the Welcoming Congregation Process?

by Sharon Travis

Between January of 1991 and late summer of 1992, while living in New Mexico and getting my graduate degree in Social Work, I volunteered as a citizen advocate with the Southwest AIDS Committee in Las Cruces, NM. I saw, first-hand, the stigma and hatred generated towards the LGBT community. I heard those in "religious" communities talk about AIDS being God's punishment for living a "sinful lifestyle." Those experiences led me in my search for a church community where this kind of attitude was not tolerated. Ultimately, it led me to the first Unitarian Universalist church I ever belonged to.

In all the years I've been a member of UUCSEA (since the very first service in 1996), it never occurred to me to even think we WEREN'T a "welcoming congregation." Certainly I always felt welcomed, and attempted to ensure that anyone new to our service was made to feel welcome. What I never considered is that, even with all the effort our congregation puts forth to be welcoming toward every person who comes through our doors, that TRUE WELCOME is not widely known in the community. After all, few of us (me included) go around telling everyone I meet (to say nothing of the fact that I don't go knocking on the doors in my neighborhood) that our church works hard at including everyone who comes to us.

Becoming a Welcoming Congregation is a way for us to advertise in the wider community that WE ARE A WELCOMING CONGREGATION. It gives us an avenue for reaching out to the LGBT community to let them know that, when others shut their doors or try to convince them to change who they are (and thus make them more acceptable inside some church communities), we care about them as they are and respect differences in all people. The Welcoming Congregation process will also provide a forum to help us, as a congregation, learn more about others in a way that makes it safe to ask the questions we might voice only to ourselves. Open and honest communication makes it possible to deal with and overcome any biases we have (and come on, admit it, we all have them!).

The "official recognition" of our church as a Welcoming Congregation gives public notice that one of our core values is to ensure that the LGBT community, and all others, will see evidence in our services, in our by-laws, in our music, in our attitudes, that we not only will not discriminate in any fashion but will not sit by and silently tolerate those outward expressions of discrimination towards others in the communities in which we live.

Last (but not least) the reason I am participating in working to help our church become a Welcoming Congregation is because, ultimately, it's the right thing for us to do and the right time to do it. I'm so very proud to be a member of a church with a minister who leads the way as we set out on this path!

Musical Notes Agnes V. Paulsen

May This Light Shine

Words and Music by Agnes V. Paulsen

May this light shine clear and bright and our lives with love unite.

May we search for truth and understanding as together we worship and sing.



Agnes (Larsen) Paulsen is presently the Minister of Music at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson. She was born in Kingaroy, Queensland, Australia, where her father, a Lutheran minister, was a missionary.

Music was always a part of Agnes' life, singing before she learned to talk. Being self-taught piano, she learned to read music by playing violin and flute. A high school honor graduate, she entered Dana College on a scholarship, but was unable to continue due to lack of funds. Now in the work field, she married Lyle Paulsen shortly before his ordination as a Lutheran minister. While he served congregations in North Dakota, Wisconsin, Iowa, California, and Utah, Agnes played the organ, directed choirs, and attended college when possible. At age fifty, Agnes graduated cum laude from Weber State College, Ogden, Utah, with a Secondary Music Education degree majoring in pipe organ.

With their 3 sons grown, Lyle and Agnes moved with their 2 daughters to Tucson, Arizona. In 1977 the couple became Unitarian Universalists, Lyle calling himself a born-again UU. Rev. Paulsen died Jan. 25, 2004. Some 20 years ago, she formed Family Singers about which Agnes says "This has been a very challenging experience, with so many ages participating. But I have singers who stay in our "family" so to speak for years—15 or more. They have truly become an extended family and the older ones enjoy the younger ones. My newest member is a 2-year-old boy who sits quietly next to his mother and who sings." Over the years, Agnes has performed all the musical responsibilities at UUCT, including directing the adult choir. Agnes has had a full life as a daughter, sister, wife, mother, artist, tennis athlete, and musician. She has written a couple of children's books of music and songs for the UU religious education curricula, including three for *May This Light Shine*, a songbook for children and youth, a project of the Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network.

—Sharon Douglas

Editor's Note: Sharon Douglas will occasionally be sharing biographies of important UU musicians and composers gathered in her work toward certification in the Unitarian Universalists Musician's Network.

August, 2009						
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2 Social Action Mtg UU Journeys	3 UUCSFEA Office Open	4 Worship Committee	5 UUCSFEA Office Open Rod's Office Hours	6 UU Quilters	7 Rod's Office Hours UUCSFEA Office Open	8
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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

**Unitarian Universalist Church
of Southeastern Arizona
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Sierra Vista, Arizona 85636-
3123**

