

Connections EEA

February 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

February 1, 2009—Vicki French

Trappings of Death

Vicki French is the executive director of Renaissance House in Bisbee, a behavioral health facility that serves homeless women in recovery from drug and alcohol dependence, victims of domestic violence, women getting out of jail or prison, women with mental illness, and women who are working to reunite their families. She will tell us about the type of work that is done there through the prism of the New Testament story of Lazarus.

February 8, 2009—Rev. Rod Richards

The Planet of Love

Earth? Well, no, Venus actually. But we'll explore some of the mythology about Venus, (reaching back to Aphrodite and Ishtar) and the depiction of the planet by artists like Vincent Van Gogh and John Keats, to see what they might tell us about Venus and, of course, ultimately, about this planet Earth that we share.

February 15, 2009 - Rev. Rod Richards

Darwin Day

The 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin (on February 12th) provides an opportunity to reflect on the intersection of religion and science and the ramifications of Darwin's insights into life on Earth.

February 22, 2009—Rev. Rod Richards

Purgatory

Purgatory, though it may seem to be a rather quaint, archaic notion to some, is based on the notion that suffering can "purify" us. Does that principle operate in life *before* death? What are your feelings about the meaning of suffering in our attempts to nurture our own best selves?



Rod's Reflections

Works of Love

I am thinking about invocations. As I write this, there has been a lot of controversy and conversation swirling around the choice of people to offer prayers at the Inaugural celebrations, and there are many who don't think such particular expressions of religious content have a place at these kinds of public and political functions. What spurred this particular musing, however, is reflecting on the very word (*invocation*) and its meaning, not least of all because I have presented invocations at Sierra Vista City Council Meetings as your minister over the last few years.

The first definition of *invoke* in the online American Heritage Dictionary is "to call on (a higher power) for assistance, support, or inspiration." If we replace "a higher power" with "a source of strength," it may allow wider inclusion. We all have defined, through our own experience and reflection, what gives us strength. The focus then turns from *whom* or *what* we are talking to toward *what it is we are asking for*. Another definition of *invoke* is "to summon; to conjure." What is it that we think we need? What is it that we wish to conjure?

Rev. Joseph Lowery impressed me when he said in his Inaugural Benediction: *...in the complex arena of human relations, help us to make choices on the side of love, not hate; on the side of inclusion, not exclusion; tolerance, not intolerance.*

Help us to make choices on the side of love. February, because of Valentine's Day, is sometimes known as the month of Love. We'll be taking a look at some of the mythology that surrounds Venus, Roman goddess of love, on February 8th. Though there are a million facets of love that could be discussed, there is little doubt that, in the words of the popular song, what the world needs now is love. Love in action. Working from our heartfelt connection with one another, we seek to restore our proper relationship to one another and to all of life.

Unitarian minister, Theodore Parker, in a Benediction from our hymnal, says:

*Be ours a religion which, like sunshine, goes everywhere;
its temple, all space;
its shrine, the good heart;
its creed, all truth;
its ritual, works of love;
its profession of faith, divine living.*

I ask you, and I pledge to join you, in embracing our ritual as defined by Rev. Theodore Parker. I look forward to exploring and engaging works of love in this coming year and the years ahead. I look forward to finding ways to invite more people into this work. What the world needs now is love, not just for some but for everyone.

See you on Sunday,

Rod
r-richards@uuma.org

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, or by calling **520/378-0197**.

Visit our web site at 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

February's Board meeting will be on Thursday, Feb. 5th from 2:00 - 5:00 PM at the UUCSEA Office. Meetings are open to members and friends.

Team Contacts are:

Book Group: Ed & Ellie Waters
 Caring Ministry: Karen Horton
 Church Email: Jean MacKeen
 Cinema Circle: Gary Rulapaugh
 Circulo de Amigas: Jean MacKeen
 Coffee:

Committee on Ministry:

Max Frye
 Patricia Burr
 Lorraine Groberg

Communications Team: Jerry Covey

District and Association Information:

Flowers:

Greeters:

Ellie Waters
 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:

Social Action: Terry Zapotocky

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.



President Presents

Sharon Covey, Board President

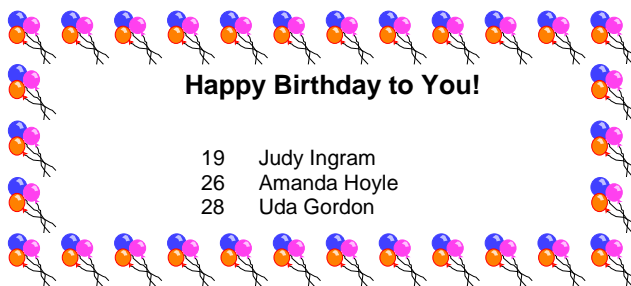
"Our Office"

The office is under construction and is not officially open for business but here is the good news. We are already having meetings, scheduling conflicts, and lots of enthusiasm. I have little doubt we are ready to have a place of our own.

For scheduling, please contact me by email or telephone. We hope to have a volunteer scheduler soon and will try to keep the website calendar current so you can plan your activities.

There is much to get done. Opening and running an office is a community effort so plan on attending an Office Volunteers meeting on February 9th, from 10:00AM to 12:00 PM. This facilitated meeting will focus on office tasks, job descriptions and priorities. Contribute your ideas and perhaps you will find the perfect volunteer niche for yourself. We need your input.

Sharon Covey, Board President



Happy Birthday to You!

19 Judy Ingram
 26 Amanda Hoyle
 28 Uda Gordon

The UUCSEA cooks at the Good Neighbor Alliance on the third Monday of every month. This is a new date that just started January 2009. Volunteers are needed to help prepare the evening meal for homeless guests that are staying at the shelter. Please prepare the dinner start at 4pm and it should be ready to serve at 6pm for guests to eat. Volunteers do not have to do dishes...unless they really want to. Please see Ann Danell for further details.

UUCSEA News and Notes

Cinema Circle

The next Cinema Circle film will be on Friday February 6th at 7:00 P.M. The film will be "The Visitor." It was named as one of the year's most intriguing dramas. A disaffected college professor who on trip into New York, discovers a couple has taken up residence in his apartment in the city. He develops an unexpected and profound connection to them that will change his life forever.



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.

Gary Rulapaugh

Book Club

((Note: After each book A.=Amazon, prices may change; L.= Sierra Vista Library)

February 15 – The Tyranny of Oil by Antonia Juhasz , review by Quenton Schenk. "A leading industry critic and expert on corporations and globalization, gives us the hardest-hitting expose of the oil industry in decades...she investigates the true state of the U.S. oil industry—uncovering its virtually unparalleled global power, influence over our elected officials, and lack of regulatory oversight...The author offers both a new take on problems and a new set of solutions...and puts forward an immediate call to action – a formula for reining in the industry, its governmental lobbying power, environmental destruction, and violence while reducing global independence on oil. (A. from 13.40 – L. 0 copies)

March 15 - Young Jesus: Restoring the "Lost Years" of a Social Activist and Religious Dissident by Jean-Pierre Isbouts, review by Rev. Rod Richards. For those who question the biblical story of Jesus, Isbouts has written a book for us as well as "Believers". Isbouts' research rests on the Bible, the Book of Thomas, the work of the Gnostics, primary Roman and Jewish documents as well as modern economic, forensic, psychological and archaeological models to describe the young years of Jesus and the experience of his contemporaries. Most compelling was Jesus' concern for have-nots, based on his experience of being shunned as a person with uncertain parentage, his years of forced labor, often hungry, as well being deprived of the closeness of a mother and family. (A. from 11.50 – L. 1 copy)

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)

The Book Group meets the 3rd Sun. of each month, 2:30 PM at the UUCSEA Office. You are welcome whether or not you have read the book.

???Ed and Ellie Waters

459-3390 edellie@intergate.com.

Got some time on March 5 to get an early start on celebrating **International Women's Day**, which is March 8? The local Cinemark Theater will have a special showing of a movie "A Powerful Noise". The movie takes you inside the lives of three women from different countries to witness their daily efforts to fight HIV/AIDS, champion girls' education and unite ethnically divided communities. The presentation will conclude with a live panel of renowned advocates discussing how women, equipped with proper resources, have the power to help families and entire communities escape poverty. Tricia Gerrodette is spearheading this get-together

MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS AND SCHEDULE:

Members, friends, or visitors to the congregation are invited to call (378-0197) or email (richards@uuma.org) to schedule an appointment. I am looking forward to establishing regular office hours in the new office... (stay tuned!)

Mondays are Rod's days off.

THE SUNDAY SERVICES MEETING is at 1:15 pm on Thursday, Feb. 12, 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." We need you!

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>.



How You Can Save This Beautiful Planet Now

What you can do:

- 1 If every US household replaced the 9 most used light bulbs with CFL's we'd save as much as removing 10 million cars
- 2 off the road.
- 3 Phantom power (those little red diode lights and clocks on all our electronics) create 153 billion lbs of CO2 a year unplug them or use smart power strips.
- 4 Junk mail created 114 billion lbs of CO2 yearly, so go to a site like www.41pounds.org or www.donotmail.gov to get off the lists. Call all companies you get catalogs from and tell them to stop.
- 5 Household heating and cooling creates 943 billion lbs. Dial your thermostat 4 degrees up in summer and 4 degrees down in winter.
- 6 A one minute shower creates ¼ lb of carbon. If we all cut our showers by 1 minute we will save 20.9 billion lbs of CO2 per year.
- 7 The average hot water heater uses 3000 lbs of carbon per year, and turning it down to 120 degrees saves 500 lbs per year. When it needs replacing install an on-demand system.
- 8 If everyone ran their (full)dishwasher and washer/dryer at night we would save enough power to replace 84% of our cars & trucks with plug in hybrid vehicles.
- 9 A diet soda gives us one calorie of food energy but creates 2100 lbs of CO2 to make, not counting packaging or transporting it.
- 10 If every American replaced one meat meal with a vegetarian it would take the equivalent of 5 million cars off the road.
- 11 If you are stopping for more than 10 seconds, turn off your car.
- 12 The average dog uses 596 lbs, cats 517 lbs to feed. The average weekly ride to the off leash area uses 400 lbs of CO2, while cat litter is made from strip mined clay and produces 3.4 million tons of solid waste to landfills.
- 13 Using Netflix saves 65% Of the emissions of a drive to the video store.
- 14 Please look at the packaging things come in...how many resources are used to extract, produce, and transport it, as well as how much pollution is created to manufacture and get that product to you.
- 15 In the workplace you could ask for what the US Congress did (the Senate declined), saving the equivalent of 17,200 cars CO2 per year in their
 - Replaced Styrofoam and plastic plates and cups with sugarcane plates and cornstarch cups.
 - Composted all kitchen and table waste.
 - Switched to mostly locally grown (within 250 miles) and organic food.
 - Switched to energy saving vending machines.
 - Purchased an offset of their remaining energy through the Chicago Climate Exchange

You can go to www.nativeenergy.com to do a calculation of your own (or your business's) carbon footprint in lifestyle, travel or events. You can also buy offsets for your own energy use. They will plant trees, and set up wind and solar generation in YOUR name.

There is a lot of info out there if you want to learn more:

www.350.org

<http://www.ipcc.ch/> - Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – reports, papers, documents, science, etc.

www.lickglobalwarming.org/learn.cfm - Ben & Jerry's, SaveOurEnvironment, and Dave Matthews Band

www.climatecrisis.net/thescience - Background info on the movie: An Inconvenient Truth

www.nrdc.org/globalWarming/default.asp - Global warming information from NRDC

www.stopglobalwarming.org - StopGlobalWarming.org

www.renewus.org/do_something.html - RenewUS.org

www.motherjones.com – Investigative reporting at it's best

www.yesmagazine.org – Reporting on all the positive things happening worldwide

Thank you, in advance, for your efforts, and please feel free to widely distribute this flyer (email or paper) to any and all. May we all receive the many blessings we deserve.

The Sierra Vista Farmers Market, as part of their Earth Day celebration on April 18, will accept plastic bags for recycling. Start now saving those bags, like what bread and vegetables come in. And grocery bags, although you should be using your T-Bags, right? Bring them to church and Rouanna Garden will collect and save them - or save them yourself and take to the market on 4/18. It will be a fun day for sure!



TOILET PAPER TEA PARTY

Please join us for High Tea
to celebrate the opening of our new
office.

Date: Tuesday, February 3, 2009
Time: 4:00 - 6:00 PM
Place: UUCSEA Office - 1020 E. Fry Blvd.

Please bring your own mug if you would
like to leave it at the office for future use.

Questions? Contact Sharon Covey @ 803-1656

February Days of Power

2 February - Imbolc or Brigit's Day
9 February - Full Moon (Quickening Moon)
24 February - New Moon

Imbolc is the holiday that marks the sun's growing strength and this is the best time to initiate or begin on the path. Imbolc mean's "ewe's milk" as baby lambs are born and their mothers begin to give milk The Goddess has just given birth to the God and now that cycle begins all over again during the life and death of the Deities.

--submitted by Debra Hoyle

Amanda Hoyle will be 16 years old on February 26!

Potato Bar Sunday, February 8th

Organic Baked Potatoes supplied

Sign-up at UUCSEA for Toppings.

Please bring:

- Your topping and utensil(s) to serve.
- Bowl, knife, fork, spoon for each member of your family.
- Your appetite!



For information, contact Rouanna @ 459-4595

NEW MEMBER BIO

Meet Molly Smith! Raised on a farm in Idaho, she has also lived in Portland and Klamath Falls, OR, New York, and in the garlic capitol of Gilroy, CA.

Molly grew up a Methodist, a religion which instilled the belief that service to humanity is important. In her church confirmation class, she studied other religions and does not recall that anything negative was ever said about anyone else's beliefs. She has visited UU services in various places where she lived and once heard a UU minister quip that if it were not for fallen Methodists, the Unitarians would have folded years ago.

About three years ago, Molly began to spend time in Bisbee; she moved there full-time in April 2007.

Molly is self-employed as a consultant, specializing in assisting employers with compliance with employment laws and regulations. She also does general Human Resources work. She works largely by telephone, e-mail and fax, and travels some. Her consulting work has taken her all over the country.

Travel is one of her joys; other recreational interests are hiking, which she does weekly with the Bisbee Mule Team. She also likes skiing and looks forward to snow on Mt. Lemmon. Also, the UU Book group is of interest to her; she's currently reading Hellfire Nation.

Be sure and give her a hearty new member welcome!

Submitted by Jean MacKeen, Membership Committee

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REQUEST

The Nominating Committee is ready to receive input on Board members for 2009. Open positions will be President (1 yr term); Secretary (1 yr term); Treasurer (1 yr term); two members-at-large (two yr term); and nominating committee (1 yr term). If you are able and willing to serve, and/or would like to suggest someone for any of these positions, please contact Patricia Burr, Jay Jenkins, or Mitzi Jones.

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST BUNCH meets at the Lone Star Café (Hwy 92 and Hereford Rd) at 9 AM the 2nd Fri. each month (Feb. 13). All women welcome - come for the fun of it!! Call Margaret for info: 458-1237.

UU MEN'S LUNCHEON is held every 3rd Thurs. (Feb. 19) at 11:30 AM at the Landmark Café, located at 400 W. Fry Boulevard.

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

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