

# Connections EEA

January 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

**January 4, 2009** - Rev. Rod Richards—*Master of my Fate* - The beginning of the year is a time to take stock, to reflect on who we want to be and where we want to go in life. And how much, we wonder, is truly in our control?

**January 11, 2009** - Rev. Rod Richards—*Playing the Race Card* - Racial stereotypes and discrimination are uncomfortable topics, but we ignore their reality at the expense of genuine community.

**January 18, 2009** - UUCSEA Members & Friends—*Music Sunday* - "Life's music and its poetry surround and bless us through our days. For these we sing in harmony, together giving thanks and praise."  
- Dana McLean Greeley

**January 25, 2009** - Rev. Rod Richards—*Change We Can Believe In* - Some say that change is the only constant in this life. What changes are inevitable? What are the changes we wish to effect? And how does change fit into the way we construct meaning for our lives?



## Rod's Reflections

### Time Travel

When pressure was being put on President Bush to pull troops out of Iraq, he expressed his determined resistance by saying that he didn't want to plan strategy for withdrawal using "an artificial timetable." Of the many problems I had and have with the President's position on the war, I also have a problem with this phrase that he (and British Prime Minister, Gordon Brown) used over and over again. I even found myself shouting at the television at one point: "You don't want an *artificial* timetable? What other kind is there!?"

The ways in which we measure time is, by definition, *artificial; arbitrary*. It is not given to us by the natural world or divine decree, as we can observe the way it changes over history and across cultures. "Happy New Year!" we say, but when does it become new, and why? The New Year we celebrate begins January 1. The congregation's "new" fiscal year began on July 1. Rosh Hashanah, a celebration of the Jewish New Year, began on September 30. The Islamic New Year began on December 29. The Chinese New Year (the Year of the Ox) will begin on January 26.

The entry: "New Year" on Wikipedia points out that "It took quite a long time before 1 January...became the universal or standard start of the civil year," with Venice adopting it in 1522, Great Britain and the British Empire in 1752, and Thailand not until 1941.

So Happy New Year! What makes it new? Because we say so. Because we've agreed to it. And this "standard start of the civil year" has been incorporated into our personal lives to symbolize a wiping of the slate, a chance to take up those things we've neglected, a fresh page on which to continue writing the stories of our lives...Nothing wrong with that. If looking at our calendar in this way gives us a sense of opportunity, a feeling of anticipation, a renewed commitment to our best selves...Then Happy New Year, indeed!

And I think the recognition of the arbitrary nature of the way that we measure time should also free us to celebrate throughout the year. A phrase that always elicits groans of derision in my household illustrates this idea: Today is the first day of the rest of your life. This (whatever day you're reading this) is a "new" day.

Think of all of the creatively inaccurate ways in which we try to capture time in our speech: we *save* time, *waste* time, *fill* it and *kill* it; we *make* time and *take* time; we imagine that time *heals*, or *flies*, or *marches on*, or *stretches ahead*; and for all the time we have *on our hands*, it seems to always *slip away*. All of these illustrate the stubbornly elusive qualities of time in human conception; one of the great mysteries in which "we live, and move, and have our being."

Eckhart Tolle might point out (along with many other teachers) that the present moment is all we ever have...and it is more than enough. Welcome to the present! And Happy New Year!

See you on Sunday,  
Rod  
[richards@uuma.org](mailto: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](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 Sierra Vista Public Library conference room. Meetings are open to members and friends.

Team Contacts are:

Book Group: Ed & Ellie Waters  
 Caring Ministry: Karen Horton  
 Church Email:  
 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:

Finance: Morris Farr

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: Heather Kutch

Social Action:

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

I confess. Writing this monthly column is not one of my favorite things. This month is different in that I will not be addressing church business. Now is the time to celebrate friendship, family and our most precious values.

Jerry and I love our UU friends. As many of you know, we have been unable to attend Sunday services for the past couple of months. We have missed all of you. Our work and our contact with many of you continue but cannot replace the special magic that takes place on Sunday mornings. I mean, where else could you experience the birth of Buddha?



Our December Board Meeting was held in our new office. The photo below is of happy board members sitting on comfortable chairs.

Thank you again, Roz Carroll, for your generous gift of "comfort". You made moving into our office a celebration.

Our lives as UU's are interwoven. Our joys, our fears, our pride and our compassion as a community are a strong bond. Jerry and I hope that this month will bring to all of you many moments of deep contentment and peace.

Sharon Covey, President



## Happy Birthday to You! January Birthdays

5 Burt Jones  
 13 Gary Rulapaugh  
 14 Tricia Gerrodette  
 14 Henrietta Stockel  
 22 Molly Anderson

**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.

### WHAT NOW?

What can I do? Have you reduced your plastic use yet? Avoid buying water in plastic bottles. Recycle the #1 and #2 plastic items you do wind up with, like milk jugs or shampoo bottles. Avoid styrofoam/polystyrene - nasty stuff! It's made from petroleum (save it for your gas tank) and does not biodegrade.

Are you buying some things made from recycled products? Both tissues (Kleenex) and toilet paper can be obtained that are 100% recycled fiber. Many major corporations make their paper products from virgin forest, chopping down ancient trees. Don't support them! Buy recycled instead.

From Seventh Generation, a purveyor of recycled products, comes this information. If every U.S. household bought just ONE roll of TP from recycled fibers rather than virgin forest, we could save 424,000 trees, 1 million cubic feet of landfill space (because we recycled those paper products), and 153 million gallons of water. Let's all do our part!

--Tricia Gerrodette

### Cinema Circle

The next Cinema Circle film will be "The Man from Earth." Netflix says the following about the film: "Renowned sci-fi writer Jerome Bixby penned the script for this thought-provoking film starring [David Lee Smith](#) as John



Oldman, a college professor who reveals to his colleagues that he's actually a centuries-old caveman. And so begins a captivating philosophical meditation on immortality, the last work from screenwriter Bixby,

who earned career accolades for his contributions to such genre-defining shows as "Star Trek" and "The Twilight Zone."

Since January 2nd is in the middle of a holiday weekend, it will shown one week later on Friday January 9th at 7:00 P.M.

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

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

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

January is shaping up to be something of a hectic schedule. I will be in MN from Jan. 13 to Jan. 23, preaching at White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church on Jan. 18. I will then be attending the District Ministers' Retreat from Jan. 26-29. I will be in the pulpit Jan. 4, 11, and 25, and will be available by phone and email for urgent matters when I am out of town.

Mondays are Rod's days off.

**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 POWER OF NOW:** Unitarian Universalist spirituality tends to focus on the present, as opposed to the past and the future. What does life hold for us right here and right now? Come join our first classes of the season as we explore writings and recordings by Eckhart Tolle exploring "the power of now." Thursdays, Jan. 8, 6-8 PM - Vista View on Hwy. 90 at the home of Roz Carroll - 556 S. Chase St. You MUST be there before 6:00 PM when gates close. Need childcare, want to share a ride or for further info, please contact Rev. Rod Richards at 378-0197 or [rrichards@uuma.org](mailto:rrichards@uuma.org).

**THE SUNDAY SERVICES MEETING** is at 1:15 pm on Thursday, Jan. 8, 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!*

## UUCSEA News and Notes

### Book Club

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

**January 18** -- Hellfire Nation: The Politics of Sin in American History by James A. Morone, review by Max Frye. A story of fierce social conflicts among religious people and how they fought for their beliefs from the colonial era to the present day. Moral fervor inspired abortion, women's suffrage, civil rights as well as the enslavement of African Americans and the banning of liquor. Today the struggle continues. (A. from 1.95 – L. 0 copies)\*



**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 Sierra Vista Mobile Home Village Clubhouse. Rt. 90 about 2 miles east of Fry's on the right. Look for pink walls and green gates. Follow the arrow to the office. You are welcome whether or not you have read the book. ???

Ed and Ellie Waters - 459-3390 - [edellie@intergate.com](mailto:edellie@intergate.com).

### UUCSEA OFFICE



The office is located at 1020 E. Fry. As you can see in the photo above the building numbers are easy to read. (It will take a little while to get the signs designed and installed) The office is west of Kentucky Fried Chicken and across from Oil Can Henry's.

The office is ready to use for meetings. Rev. Richards, Jay Jenkins, and all of the Board Members have keys.

Committee Chairs will also be given keys. Please contact one of the above if you would like to use the office.

There is still a lot to do before we are able to schedule regular office hours. We hope to have everything up and running by mid January. Many of you have volunteered to help and are already helping. If you are one who has volunteered but has not heard from me please be assured that I have not forgotten you.

I will be trying to arrange a meeting of the willing some time after Christmas. Please email or call me if you have questions.

Sharon Covey, President

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

**UU MEN'S LUNCHEON** is held every 3rd Thurs. (Jan. 15) at 11:30 AM at the Landmark Café, located at 400 W. Fry Boulevard.

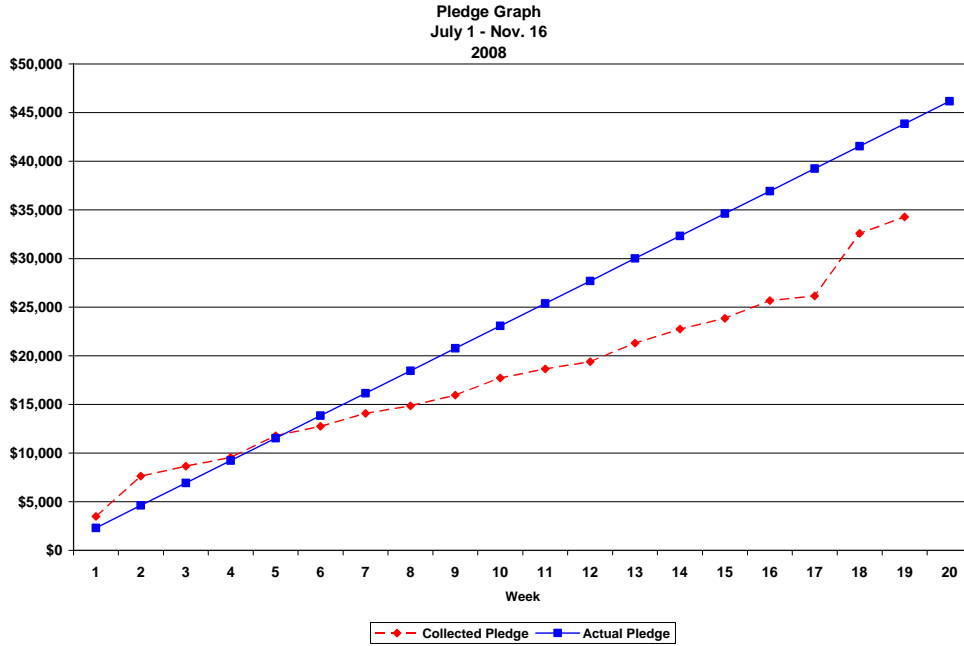
**THE BOARD MEETING** will meet the first Tuesday in January (Jan. 6) at 3 PM at the UUCSEA Office.



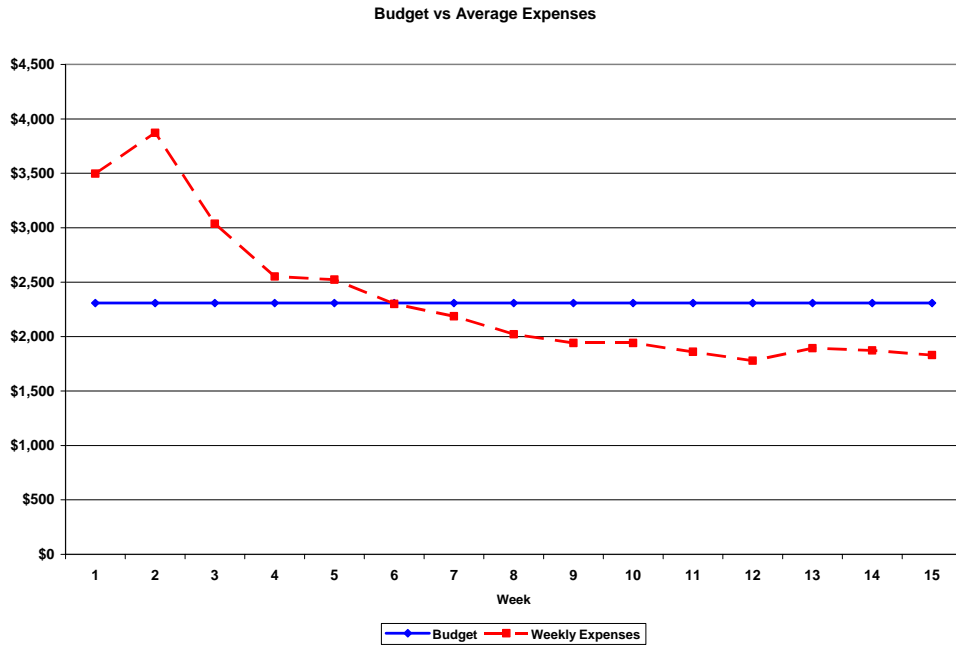
Taking Care of Business



In November we started updating you on the financial health of UUCSEA. We will continue with that same update. The following graph indicates the status of our Pledges.



The following graph indicates the status of our Expenses vs. our Budget. We are managing to stay below our proposed budget.



Note: The peaks in the first part of the year were due to UUA/PSWD dues and payroll taxes

### UPDATE ON PERLA MARINA

by Jean MacKeen



Perla Marina is our Nicaraguan student whom UUCSEA has been sponsoring through the Circulo de Amigas foundation since she was in 6th grade. On November 28th, Perla graduated from high school! Congratulations not only to Perla but to UUCSEA, too. The cost to us has been about \$44 a month (plus a little extra at Christmas-time) which we have all so very generously put into her "small change" basket by the coffee on Sunday mornings.

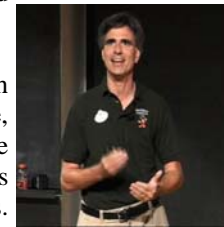
The next step is college. She took an aptitude test and scored high in agricultural engineering which she'd like to pursue. College costs a little more, \$59 monthly. This may be a push, because some months the tally has barely been \$44. Perhaps if we all make a concerted effort to save our small change through the week and then bring a little extra to church on Sunday to put in her basket, we may be able to keep up. We have promised to sponsor her for one year. She, in turn, must maintain passing grades and complete the first year of college in one year. Our small change is once again a chance for UUCSEA to make a big change in Perla's future.

**The UUCSEA cooks at the Good Neighbor Alliance** on the fourth Monday of every month. Volunteers are needed to help prepare the evening meal for homeless guests that are staying at the shelter. Volunteers do not have to do dishes...unless they really want to. Please see Ann Danell for further details.

### Randy Pausch Named Beliefnet's "Most Inspiring Person of 2008"

Randy Pausch, the Unitarian Universalist computer science professor who authored "The Last Lecture," has been selected as Beliefnet's "[Most Inspiring Person of 2008](http://www.beliefnet.com/Inspiration/Most-Inspiring-2008/)" (www.beliefnet.com/Inspiration/Most-Inspiring-2008/)." Pausch, who taught at Carnegie Mellon University and was a member of the [First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh](http://www.first-unitarian-pgh.org/), delivered "The Last Lecture" which became a video sensation and later, [a best-selling book](http://www.uuabookstore.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=904).

Pausch died of pancreatic cancer in the summer of 2008, leaving his wife, Jai, and his three small children.



Beliefnet's editors said, "Pausch was selected because of his huge, far-reaching impact and because even after his death he continues to inspire legions of viewers. Pausch's lecture, delivered for a small audience at Carnegie Mellon University where he was a professor of computer science, became an internet phenomenon. He reached more people than he ever dreamed of. People uploaded his words of wisdom and inspiring tips for life and forwarded them to friends. By 2008, his inspiration had reached almost 20 million people. His message was simple and powerful: 'We cannot change the cards we are dealt, just how we play the hand.'

### Year 2009 Holidays Calendar

[and popular observances]

- |                         |                                   |                         |                              |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| · Thursday January 1    | New Years                         | · Monday May 25         | Memorial Day                 |
| · Monday January 19     | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day       | · Sunday June 14        | Flag Day                     |
| · Monday February 2     | Groundhog Day                     | · Sunday June 21        | Father's Day                 |
| · Saturday February 14  | Valentine's Day                   | · Sunday June 21        | Summer Begins                |
| · Monday February 16    | President's Day                   | · Saturday July 4       | Independence Day/July 4      |
| · Tuesday February 24   | Mardi Gras                        | · Monday September 7    | Labor Day                    |
| · Wednesday February 25 | Ash Wednesday                     | · Tuesday September 22  | Fir Day of Autumn            |
| · Sunday March 8        | Daylight Savings Time Starts      | · Monday October 12     | Columbus Day                 |
| · Tuesday March 17      | St. Patrick's Day                 | · Saturday October 17   | Sweetest Day                 |
| · Friday March 20       | First Day of Spring               | · Saturday October 24   | United Nations Day           |
| · Wednesday April 1     | April Fool's Day                  | · Saturday October 31   | Halloween                    |
| · Sunday April 12       | Easter                            | · Sunday November 1     | Daylight Savings Time Starts |
| · Wednesday April 22    | Earth Day                         | · Wednesday November 11 | Veteran's Day                |
| · Wednesday April 22    | Administrative Professional's Day | · Thursday November 26  | Thanksgiving                 |
| · Friday April 24       | Arbor Day, U.S.                   | · Thursday December 17  | Wright Brothers Day          |
| · Tuesday May 5         | Cinco De Mayo                     | · Monday December 21    | Fir Day Winter               |
| · Sunday May 10         | Mother's Day                      | · Friday December 25    | Christmas                    |
| · Saturday May 16       | Armed Forces Day                  |                         |                              |

### Check Your License Plate Holder!!

New state law (A.R.S. 28-2354(B)) requires, as of January 1, that the state name at the top of Arizona license plates must be visible. Any license plate holder or cover that prevents the license plate from being clearly legible is in violation of this new law.

## UU Niagara Experience

Hear the roar! Feel the mist! See the mighty Falls! July 19 - 22, 2009

Come experience the wonder of Niagara Falls including some great educational opportunities while being taken care of like royalty. The UU Church of Niagara is conducting a four day UU Niagara Experience which is a lifetime opportunity to encounter the Falls up close from every perspective, even safely riding beneath a tethered balloon. Spend four days with us exploring the rich historical and natural wonders around the Falls.



For information visit our web site:

<http://www.uunex.net>  
 Email : [uunex@yahoo.com](mailto:uunex@yahoo.com)  
 (716) 745-7149 or (716) 791-4453



## UUCA Hosts4Change B&B for Obama Inauguration

Members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington-Virginia are opening their homes to fellow UUs from Jan. 16 to Jan. 22 for lodging during President-elect Obama's inauguration. Accommodations range from sleeping on the sofa, to a private room and bath, with prices accordingly. All homes are conveniently located in the D.C. metro area (mainly Arlington/Alexandria/Fairfax, Virginia) and accessible to metro (subway system). You don't have to miss out on this exciting historical event! This is a fundraiser for UUCA -- all proceeds benefit the church. To request a reservation, please visit <http://www.uucava.org/> and click on "UUCA Hosts4Change".



Unitarian Universalist Service Committee  
 Advancing human rights is the work of many joining hands

## Standing Tall: Kenyans Uphold the Right to Work in Dignity

Today's global economic crisis has led to calls for a new way of doing business, presenting a real opportunity for positive change. What would an economy look like that put real human needs before profit?

UUSC's extraordinary partners in Kenya provide such an example. In the face of vast economic and political challenges, groups like KENASVIT and the Rock Women Group have resiliently organized for the rights and representation of informal workers, such as street vendors, informal traders, and child workers. Their work is helping to shape local and national policies that reflect the fair contributions of the world's vast "informal" workforce.

Join us on UUSC's first JustJourney to Kenya. We will visit with and learn firsthand from innovative UUSC partners who are strengthening people-centered economies.

This unique experiential learning opportunity is designed to give you an in-depth understanding of the issues facing Kenya and UUSC's Kenyan program partners, who protect the right to work and earn a dignified living.

On the journey, you will:

- Meet visionary leaders
- Visit vending sites and markets in various cities, such as Mombasa and Nakuru
- See UUSC's eye-to-eye partnership model at work
- Visit important cultural sites and marvel at Kenya's wildlife diversity by joining a safari in Lake Nakuru National Park

Who should apply? Anyone interested workers rights, economic justice, and human rights!

Cost: US \$2,550. This includes all pre- and post-trip literature; room and board; and in-country transportation, interpretation, and facilitators.

Participants will stay in double rooms at moderate hotels/guesthouses. Meals are usually served family or buffet style. The cost does not include airfare or any incidentals. Participants must make their own travel arrangements to Nairobi. UUSC will provide shuttle transportation from the airport to the guesthouse. We are also happy to help you brainstorm fundraising ideas to help cover the cost of your trip.

Dates:

Late March 2009 (Specific dates TBD)

Application Deadline: January 23, 2008

For information, contact:

Anna Bartlett at [abartlett@uusc.org](mailto:abartlett@uusc.org) or 617-301-4367

Johanna Chao Kreilick at [jckreilick@uusc.org](mailto:jckreilick@uusc.org) or 617-301-4379

For additional information, please visit our website: <http://www.uusc.org/>

**A GREAT BIG THANK YOU** to the congregation for the abundant generosity of your holiday gift to me. From "Bodacious Bodhi Days" to "Sensational Solstices," I am honored and privileged to celebrate these holidays as the minister of this loving community

– The Rev. Rod Richards

**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**

