

Connections EA

March 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

March 1, 2009 - Rev. Rod Richards—*40 Days & 40 Nights* - We are in the midst of the season that Christians celebrate as Lent, commemorating (among other things) the time that Jesus spent in the desert withstanding temptation. Beginning with Ash Wednesday and culminating in Easter Sunday, what meaning might the season hold for us?

March 8, 2009 - Rev. Rod Richards—*Religion by the Numbers: 1* - There is no God but God, and Muhammad is his prophet. This is a basic tenet of Islam and a core teaching of Muhammad, whose birthday is celebrated on March 9th. The oneness of God is a fundamental principle of many religions and the oneness at the center of life appears in many more. We'll look at Islam in relation to Judaism and Christianity and beyond to explore the idea of "oneness."

March 15, 2009 - Frena Gray-Davidson—*Caring About Caring* - With over twenty years experience in Alzheimer's care, Frena's credits include: support group facilitator for the Alzheimer's Association, keynote speaker for the Royal Alzheimer Society of Great Britain, international presenter of workshops on dementia, trainer/educator of dementia-care workers/family caregivers and author of seventeen books.

March 22, 2009 - Rev. Rod Richards—*Enough is Enough* - It's no secret: money is tight. The economic crisis has global proportions and very personal consequences that we must face. How is our congregation handling the anxiety that surrounds these realities? How do we face the future with clear-eyed conviction and practical idealism?

March 29, 2009 - Terry Zapotocky—*Justice Sunday* - Celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



Rod's Reflections

Cooperation, Collaboration, Imagination

Last month we celebrated the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin (and the 150th anniversary of the publication of *On the Origin of Species*). There is little doubt that Darwin's writings helped to change many assumptions about just what sort of creatures humans are, as well as our relationship to all of life.

However, some of the more popularly known ramifications of evolutionary theory (e.g. "survival of the fittest") have been sadly misinterpreted and misconstrued. In some cases, Darwin's thought has been savagely twisted to support selfish individualism, a cool detachment from the plight of the most vulnerable among us, and even outright aggression against "weaker" populations. And even those who reject these justifications of immorality may hold a deep-seated fear that science has now shown us that life is, at its core, a battle that one must somehow "win."

It is worth pointing out that Darwin's focus was not on *strength* but on *adaptation*. Those species that survive have found effective ways to adapt to their environments and, while sometimes that may involve securing resources through sheer strength, very often it has to do with an ability to cooperate and collaborate with other life forms. Anarchist writer Peter Kropotkin wrote a book entitled *Mutual Aid: A Factor in Evolution* (1902), based on his own scientific and cultural observations, in which he made the case that cooperation and mutual aid were at least as important as competition and mutual strife in the evolution of the species. Anthony David, in an article entitled "Our Inner Ape" (UU World, Spring 2009), suggests that science has traveled far beyond the "killer ape" theory of human origins which proposed that morality, compassion and cooperation are simply a thin veneer that civilization has placed over our extremely aggressive evolutionary heritage. "There is amazing breadth and diversity within our biological family of great apes," he writes. "What's deep down in human nature is broad...And our job is to choose wisely which impulses to draw on."

There is little doubt that we must now choose to come together to meet the challenges that our country and our world are now facing. People across the world are experiencing a renewed appreciation for the reality of the interdependent web of all of life, a deeper realization of the need to understand one another across artificial boundaries, and a refreshed focus on our responsibility toward one another. Our Unitarian Universalist congregation provides a strong and relevant voice to our community in all of these areas.

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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

This month's Board meeting is March 3 at 3:00 PM at the UUCSEA office. Meetings are open to members and friends.

Team Contacts are:
Book Group: Ed & Ellie Waters
Caring Ministry: Karen Horton
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:
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: 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.



**President Presents
Sharon Covey, Board President
Annual Congregational Meeting**

Our annual congregational meeting will be April 5, 2009 following Sunday Services. Sandwiches and drinks will be provided.

The agenda, proposed bylaws changes, proposed budget for 2009-10, slate of officers, board members at large, and nominating committee members will be sent three weeks before the meeting. UUCSEA members will be asked to elect a president, secretary, treasurer, two new board members and a three member nominating committee for the following year. The new board will start serving July 1st. Two of the current board members will remain on the board for one more year.

I am very grateful for all the work that is going on and feel positive about the health of a congregation that gives so much volunteer time. Some of the committees deserve to be paid overtime but they know they are producing solid results which will help all of us for many years to come. Many individuals just "get things done". They see a need and they fill it. I wish I could provide every person with the recognition they deserve. I thank all of you so much.

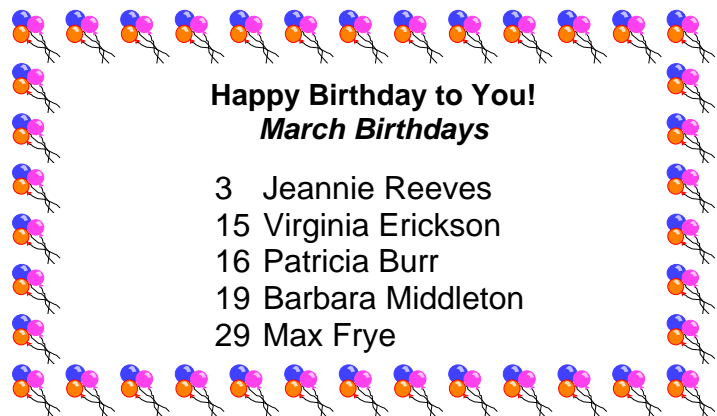
Please plan on attending April 5th. This is an important meeting in the life of our community.

Sharon Covey, Board President

Rod's Reflections, cont'd from page 1

You, the members and friends of this congregation, have always inspired me with the ways in which you cooperate, collaborate, and creatively engage with one another to make us the vibrant and welcoming community we are. I now get to experience this power of collaboration in a whole new way as we cross paths, fulfill tasks, and share greetings and conversation during the week on the common ground of our office. It is a powerful extension of those gifts you have had all along, those gifts that have helped to bring us here: cooperation, collaboration, imagination.

See you on Sunday,
Rod
richards@uuma.org



March Music Notes

The annual District Assembly at the Hilton Phoenix East in Mesa, Arizona, May 1-3, will be an exciting and unique DA with the Friday evening performance "Sources," a Unitarian Universalist Cantata; music by Jason Shelton & words by Kendyl Gibbons. Led by Connie Jharmark and Kellie Walker, a choir of 100 people plus orchestra will perform this very special UU piece that includes a wonderful diversity of music styles. It is not to be missed! Let our music director, Sharon Douglas, know if you have an interest in participating in this choir. Tenor voices are especially needed.

The UUCSEA Choir for All Ages will be presenting one portion of the seven part cantata at the March 8 service. It isn't too late for you to be a part of this group at its next appearance.

Selection of hymns for a month of UUCSEA Sunday morning services usually requires 2-3 hours around the middle of the month for the following month. Consider sharing input into this important and pleasant task at least once. Sharon Douglas can be reached at 458-4545.

—Sharon Douglas

Cinema Circle

The next Cinema Circle film will be on Friday March 6th at 7:00 P.M. The film will be "God on Trial." The film is a Masterpiece Theatre World War II drama about a group of Auschwitz prisoners who decide to put God on trial. The tale is based on anecdotal reports of an actual band of concentration camp inmates who convened a rabbinical court to determine how such evil could exist in a God-centric universe as they awaited the determination of their own fates -- death or hard labor.



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. Rev. Richards will facilitate a discussion following the film.

Please call 439-2830 for further directions.

**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) Rod to schedule appointments. Monday is Rod's day off.

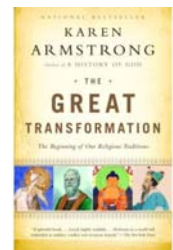


ROD ON THE RADIO: "The Magic Eye" airs live in Old Bisbee on KBRP-LP 96.1, Wednesdays 11AM - noon and Sundays (rebroadcast) 5-6 PM. All those with Internet access can hear the show during those times by visiting the KBRP web site at <http://www.kbrpradio.com>.

THE GREAT TRANSFORMATION:

With the help of Karen Armstrong's work, we'll explore the "spiritual explosion" that occurred in the 9th Cent. B.C.E., giving us four major, enduring religious and philosophical traditions. But while the traditions continue, has a message been lost?

Wednesdays beginning March 11, 6-8 PM at the UUCSEA office. Questions? Contact Rev. Rod Richards at 378-0197 or r-richards@uuma.org.



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!*

NEW!!! SOUP SUNDAY

On the second Sunday of each month we will be having homemade soups and bread after services. This is a fund raiser and donations will be used for our Building Fund. Soup for March 8th will be made by Sharon Douglas, Georgia Nielson, Jondi Nelson and Therese Erickson. ENJOY!!!

UU KIDS CORNER

A craft day for all UU Kids will be held 1-4 PM on March 21 at the UUCSEA office. What is the project? Who is running the project? Call Rouanna @ 459-4595 for answers to the "what" and the "who". Please RSVP to the "who". Have fun!

UUCSEA News and Notes

Book Club

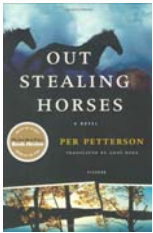
(Note: After each book A.=Amazon, prices may change ; L.= Sierra Vista Library)



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 Gospel 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, possibly 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 lightning speed. He thinks the U.S. can maintain its vibrant economy despite sharp changes and inefficiencies in it. He advocates trimming spending, increasing savings, expanding science and technology training, securing pensions, fixing immigration policies and achieving 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 Petterson, 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)



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. Questions? Contact Ed and Ellie Waters, 459-3390 or edellie@intergate.com.

Earth Hour

March 28 is designated as Earth Hour this year. It's the one hour a year when people, cities, and landmarks all around the world turn off their lights as a symbol of concern over global warming. It's a small thing; just a beginning toward all we need to do...Will you take part? Turn off your lights from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. Here's a website if you want more information - <http://www.earthhour.org/>

The great aim of education is not knowledge but action. — Herbert Spencer, English philosopher (1820 - 1903)

March Days of Power

10 March - Full Moon (Storm Moon)
18 March - Celtic Tree Month of Alder (for the UUCSEA Druids)
20 March - Ostara/Spring Equinox
26 March - New Moon

Ostara is the sabbat (holiday) that marks that when light and darkness are in balance, yet the light is growing stronger by the day. The Goddess regaining her youth and the God grows to maturity. Ostara is a time to celebrate the arrival of Spring, to see the renewal and rebirth of Nature.

-submitted by Debra Hoyle

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YOUR SMALL CHANGE FOR PERLA is making a BIG change in her life. Put that loose change in your pocket in the basket by the coffee for our Nicaraguan college student and keep Jean rolling those coins. Working through the Circulo de Amigas Foundation, all we need is \$59/mon. to keep her in college. Pick up a flier and read her latest note.

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST BUNCH meets at the Lonestar Café (Hwy 92 and Hereford Rd) at 9 AM the 2nd Fri. each month (March 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. (March 19) at 11:30 AM at the Landmark Café, located at 400 W. Fry Boulevard.

CELEBRATE!!!



CIRCLE SUPPERS ARE BACK!

Sign up and get to know your fellow UUCSEA members.

In the past, our Congregation has enjoyed a social activity we call **Circle Suppers**. We've been told many of our members miss it.

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 six weeks notice so you can contact your guests and work out the logistics: date, time, place etc. It's usually easier if the host decides on the entrée and then arranges with the invitees to bring side dishes, dessert etc.

Both Virginia Farrar and Patricia Burr will be carrying clipboards after the next few services. We invite you to sign up. Questions? Call Virginia at 458-6284 or call or e-mail Patricia at 803-9197 / psburr@msn.com.

Good Neighbors

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 see Ann Danell 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 see her for further details.

WhaleCoast Alaska Tours (3/21 deadline)

WhaleCoast Alaska 2009: Five Alaskan UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program this summer in our 13th year! See the REAL Alaska, with UU homestays in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Seward, Juneau, and Sitka.

UU's host events and lead tours. Visit Tlingit and Inupiat Native Alaskans; see lots of wildlife - bears, moose, caribou, whales, sea otters and bald eagles; visit Denali and other National Parks.

Dave Frey, a 28-year Alaska resident, leads the programs. Visit www.whalecoastak.org. Reservation deadline is March 21. Tours usually fill early. Email dfrey@whalecoastak.org for information, or call 907-322-4966.

Alaska UUs would love to share our awe-inspiring state with you!

P.S. Ask Jean MacKeen or Tom King about their '08 WhaleCoast Tour.



Books donated to the Sierra Vista Library by the UUCSEA Social Action Ministry.

Please read, enjoy and tell your friends.



Adult Books:

For The Common Good (Revised): Redirecting the Economy toward Community, the Environment, and a Sustainable Future Author: Herman E. Daly

Sustainable Planet: Solutions for the Twenty-first Century

Editor: Juliet Schor Coeditor: Betsy Taylor

Uncertain Peril: Genetic Engineering and the Future of Seeds

Author: Claire Hope Cummings

When the Rivers Run Dry: Water--The defining Crisis of the Twenty-First Century

Author: Fred Pearce

With Speed and Violence: Why Scientists Fear Tipping Points in Climate Change

Author: Fred Pearce

Parents, please check out these new books on the environment at the Library.

THANK YOU ROUANNA!

The members of UUCSEA would like to publicly acknowledge the contributions of Rouanna Garden to our community. From the day she arrived on the scene if she found a void she stepped in to fill it. You know her as the organizer of Soup Sunday and Potato Sunday as well as the autumn picnic. She's been involved with the kids on several projects including the "tee-shirts to shopping bags" conversion and sale. Please greet her with a big "THANK YOU!" the next time you see her.



If you'd like to nominate someone for special recognition please contact the Membership Committee at mandfar@gmail.com.

Juvenile - Youth Books:

The Future of the Earth: An Introduction to Sustainable Development for Young Readers

Author: Yann Arthus-Bertrand

Reach for the Sky: And Other Little Lessons for a Happier World

Author: Allison Stoutland

What Can I Do Today? to make this world a happier place

Author: Allison Stoutland

Down-to-Earth Guide to Global Warming

Authors: Laurie David and Cambria Gordon

Why Are the Ice Caps Melting?: The Dangers of Global Warming (Let's -Read-and-Find-Out Science 2)

Author: Anne Rockwell

Where Does the Garbage Go?: Revised Edition (Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science 2)

Author: Paul Showers

Why Should I Save Water?: (Why Should I?)

Author: Jen Green



There will be worship & workshops & awards & banquets & bridging -- community & fellowship, too!

2009 District Assembly

May 1-3, Hilton Phoenix East, Mesa, AZ

Workshops on
 Personal/Spiritual Development
 Social Justice
 Youth and Young Adult Ministry
 Church Organization
 Effective Fund Raising
 and more

Special programs for Children
 & Youth

Brochures with more information and registration forms available soon online at www.pswduua.org or from your local congregation.

Featured Performance:

"Sources," a Unitarian Universalist Cantata, music by Jason Shelton & words by Kendyl Gibbons



May 4, 2008 performance of "Sources," at the UU Congregation of Phoenix. Pictured is the final movement, "The Promise."



Pacific Southwest District, 2052 Norma St., Oxnard, CA 93036 • 805-485-1780 • pswd@uua.org

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
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Sierra Vista, Arizona 85636-3123**

