

Connections EA

May 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

May 3, 2009

Power of Affirmations / Terry Zapotocky
This service will answer the following questions: What is an affirmation? What do affirmations do? Why do they work? How does one make an affirmation?

May 10, 2009

Mother Nature / Rev. Rod Richards
Julian of Norwich was a Christian mystic of the 14th century who dared to worship the motherhood of God. Earth-centered traditions have traditionally been open to a feminine nature of the Divine. We'll take a look at the way mothers figure into our attempts to understand ourselves and our earthly home.

May 17, 2009

All Living Things
This theme was chosen by the children in their Religious Education classes. Come join our children, along with Michael Kutch, The Theater for all Ages, Suzanne Stoffolano, and others in celebrating the wonder and diversity of all living things.

May 24, 2009

Planet of War / Rev. Rod Richards
Roman god of War was also the lover of Venus, goddess of Love. The planet, Mars, has particularly captivated humanity for ages. How can we explain the romance that surrounds the planet, the god, and, indeed, war itself?

May 31, 2009

Flower Ceremony / Jeannie Reeves
This Unitarian Universalist tradition, celebrating the natural world through the beauty of flowers, also affirms and promotes the unique qualities of each individual and the vital encouragement and support of a nurturing community.



Rod's Reflections

Believers, Non-Believers, and People of Faith

Understanding religion requires learning the particular vocabularies of each religion. Because religion, like philosophy, attempts to describe that which does not lend itself easily to description, some common understandings of particular words are necessary to reduce the inevitable confusion and frequent conflict that religious discussion and debate often engender.

Owing to the vast number of "vocabularies" within this country, the public (and especially political) discussion of religion becomes incredibly complex. President Bush was known to use phrases in his speeches that had a particular familiarity to evangelical Christians, causing some to accuse him of "speaking in code." President Obama, on the other hand, is attempting to explicitly acknowledge and include the religious and philosophical diversity of Americans...and yet, the vocabulary used to accomplish this aim remains stubbornly tricky to manage.

Let me give you an example: President Obama included "non-believers" in his description of the religious tapestry of America. Many atheists, agnostics, and humanists are pleased to finally be explicitly recognized when the trend for politicians has been to focus only on "people of faith." Others are less-satisfied with the terminology, suggesting that their actual worldviews are ill-served by defining them only by the fact that they *don't believe* what some other people do. I admit to feeling pleased and unsettled all at once, as I applauded the recognition of an oft-ignored group of people and questioned the term that was used to describe them.

Non-believers? Non-believers...in what? "In God" might be a common response, but that only raises more questions. Which God? Whose God? What kind of God? And what is belief in God supposed to tell us about a person? Is a category that includes both Osama bin Laden and Desmond Tutu really helpful? And what about non-theistic religions? Would Buddhists be categorized as "non-believers" or would they somehow fall under "people of faith." And what, then, does "faith" mean?

The fact is that, for all the commingling of religion and morality, words like "faith" and "belief" hold little or no ethical content in isolation. "Faith" can inspire both the peace movement and horrible violence; "believers" (and "non-believers") take part in both the struggle for human rights and the systematic suppression of those rights; "people of faith" include the Taliban, the Amish, the Hare Krishnas...

If our purpose is to invite people across many different belief systems to come

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

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

Team Contacts are:

Book Group: Ed & Ellie Waters
Web Calendar: Rouanna Garden
Caring Ministry: Karen Horton
Cinema Circle: Gary Rulapaugh
Circulo de Amigas: Jean MacKeen
Committee on Ministry:
Lorraine Groberg
Patricia Burr
Max Frye

Communications Team: Jerry Covey
District and Association Information:
Finance: Morris Farr
Flowers: Virginia Farrar
Greeters: Margaret Carlstrom
Library: Terry Zapotocky, Sue Speicher, Mitzi Jone
Membership: Molly Anderson
Music Director: Sharon Douglas
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

Congratulations and Clarifications

Congratulations to the newly elected Board Officers and Trustees. Starting July 1st, Terry Zapotocky is Board President and Pamela Lee is Secretary. The position of Treasurer remains vacant. Trustee's elected for two year terms are Wally Hoggatt and Suzanne Stoffolano. Terry Erickson and Jim Horton, current Board members, will remain for one more year.

Some of you have expressed concern about the vacant Treasurer's position. The incoming Board will appoint a Treasurer or acting Treasurer. The Treasurer's job duties have been simplified. Duties include scheduling two people to pass the plate and complete the cash receipts voucher. On Monday, the Treasurer will take the deposit to "Freedom From Bookkeeping" which is located very close to the UUCSEA office on Fry. The Treasurer will also take any bills needing to be paid. Later in the week the Treasurer or an authorized Board member will need to go by and sign the checks. The Treasurer is also responsible for picking up our mail at the Sierra Vista post office two times weekly. The Treasurer will pick up monthly financial statements prepared by the bookkeeper and in conjunction with the Board will monitor the overall financial status. The Treasurer is also a member of the Finance Committee.

Carol Hanrahan, our current Treasurer, Jerry Covey and I will assist, if needed, through the month of July. This will give either an appointed Treasurer or acting Treasurer the time to learn the process.

The Congregation added \$2400 to the budget bringing the total pledge income to \$107,294. Our adopted budget requires \$3000 in fundraising income for the General Operating Fund.. Fundraising, in general, needs clarification. There are four separate groupings for fundraising in our current internal financial structure; the General Fund; the Minister's Discretionary Fund; Social Action and the Building Fund. Funds raised for a particular purpose cannot be diverted to any other use. Of the above four, the Building Fund is our lowest immediate priority. Several of you have expressed concern regarding "Soup Sunday" funds going to the Building Fund. These funds will only go to the Building Fund if they are not needed for the General Operating Fund. The Board will make that decision. Danielle Mackenzie's homemade "Soy Candles" will benefit our General Operating Fund. I am particularly excited about being able to use healthy, environmentally responsible, scented candles. Both the Soup and the Candle fundraisers are great because of the value they give back to the purchaser. Please remember to thank all the volunteers whose labor makes these fundraisers possible. I have not yet received the paperwork for the proposed garage sale but have been told the funds raised will go to the General Operating Fund.

If you are interested in spearheading a fundraiser, please ask Jerry Covey, cove44@aol.com, for a "Fundraising Activity Application". When it is completed give it to the Finance Committee Chair, Morris Farr. Following the Finance Committees review and approval, the form is forwarded to the Board for final approval. This can be done quickly by email. It is very important to go through this process to protect UUCSEA from potential lawsuits, violation of non profit regulations and sales tax issues.

Other fundraisers such as "Guest at Your Table" are external fundraisers and pass through but do not benefit or affect our internal finances. They are counted as a social action activity of the congregation as a whole but have no impact on the Social Action Committee's budget.

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Soup Sunday

The Soups that we had for Easter Sunday were MARVELOUS. Our thanks go to the cooks Beverly Hart, Karen Horton, Heather Kutch and Suzanne Stoffalano. The next soup Sunday May 10 will be either soup or salad. The cooks will be Patricia Burr, Shirley Sandy, Sharon Travis, and Terry Zapotocky.

Total earning for April 12 was \$232.00. A \$5.00 donation per person for soup and bread is suggested but not required, with the proceeds going to the congregation. Children are free. Most importantly, we enjoy the opportunity to share a meal in community.



For anyone wanting to cook and share a favorite recipe, there are still openings to fill for the months of September, January and February. No one will be asked to cook more than once a year. Call Therese Erickson at 803-9260.

UU Kids Corner

Sequoia, Lauren, Christopher, Mariah, and Mara, all returned home from their first Cooking Class with all digits intact and no burns.. Led by Burt Jones, the class began on Friday with a group visit to the grocery store. A stir fry was the main course with fresh organic berries as a starter and bananas foster for dessert. We began with Virginia Farrar teaching the proper setting of the table. Once in the kitchen, safety was our first concern. Knives, scissors, and hot stove were discussed. Once hands were washed, everyone was given the opportunity to participate at a level skills and dexterity would allow. All was consumed with seconds on ice cream. Additional activities included feeding and observing the deer and playing on the roof deck. Virginia and I are still recovering.



Please check your UUCSEA Web Calendar for next months activity and remember to RSVP with next month's host.

Circulo De Amigas Matching Funds Offer

CDA, the foundation by which we support our college student, Perla Marina, in Nicaragua, is in great need of a boost to its General Fund. Monies from this fund pay staff and provide supplies, etc. In honor of founder Pat McCullough's 80th birthday this month, funds have been pledged to match 80 cents on each dollar donated up to \$1929 (1929 being the year of Pat's birth). Your help is very much needed and will be greatly appreciated

There are two ways you can make your donation. One is to put your check or cash into Perla's basket by the coffee on Sunday. Since we are a little ahead with Perla's college tuition donations, all monies received through April will go the CDA General Fund. The other way to donate is to mail your check, with "General Fund" notated, directly to CDA, Attn: Dawn Tripp, POB 13204, Tempe, AZ 85284-0054. Muchos gracias!

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 (rrichards@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 Sunday Services Meeting is at 1:00 pm on the first Tuesday of each month at the UUCSEA Office.

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



President Presents, cont.

It is important to remember that a budget is just a general plan. Any volunteer or committee can ask the Board for additional funds for a specific project. If the Board agrees and it requires additional fundraising, it will be accounted for through the general operating fundraising account.

The last item needing clarification is the "CD, Video, and Fiction" library. Nothing has changed except the location. These are located in the back room past Rod's office. I hope you are still with me and love simple rules because the only rule I know of for this library is "please rewind".

Sharon Covey, Board President

Rod's Reflections, cont.

together in common purpose, why don't we use language that refers to the actions that we seek to promote, the bond that all of the worthy theistic and non-theistic traditions share in common.

"People of compassion, inspired to that work by a variety of religious and ethical traditions..."

Imagine a day in which such a phrase would, indeed, include everyone.

See you on Sunday,
Rod
rrichards@uuma.org

UUCSEA News and Notes

Book Club

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

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)

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

(A.from 6.95 – L. 6 copies)

July 19 - Boom! Voices of the Sixties–Personal Reflections of the 60's and Today by Tom Brokaw, review by Shirley Sandy. The veteran newsman “examined the accomplishments and sacrifices of an America contending with the shadow of a World War darkening daily life. He seeks to recreate that feeling in BOOM! The Baby Boomers have seen innumerable changes in the years following World War II --- an improvement in rights for women and minorities; technological advancement; revolutions in popular culture and the arts, among others. Brokaw reports on and interviews scores of “boomers” to discuss how coming of age (primarily) in the 1960s changed their lives”. (A. from .74 – L. 7 copies)

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

Happy Birthday to You!

4 - Bettie Sturtevant
22 - Sharon Travis
24 - Sid Frye
29 - Phyllis Prickett
31 - Jodie Hoekstra



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

May Days of Power

1 May - Beltane (Beltaine) / May Day
9 May - Full Moon (Flower Moon)
13 May - Celtic Tree Month of Hawthorn (for the UUCSEA Druids)
24 May - New Moon



Beltane is when the Goddess is now ripe and fertile and the young God expresses his love for her. People would often proceed through the village streets putting flowers on all the houses and buildings. Those inside the homes would offer them wonderful food and goodies to eat as sort of a spring version of "trick or treat." Another tradition of this holiday is the Maypole. In tradition, a fir was used. The young, unwed men would go to the forest and return with the tree that would be fashioned into the pole. The pole was brought to the center of the village to be guarded through the night until the first day of May. On that day, the people would come and dance around the maypole clockwise to bring fertility and good luck. Later, brightly colored ribbons were woven around the pole by the dancers as they wove around each other. This symbolizes the balance of masculine and feminine energies and the duality of life. The ribbons would then be removed and kept in a safe place to be burned in the Beltane fires of next year. This action represents the old dying to give birth to the new.

-submitted by Debra Hoyle

Good Neighbor Alliance

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

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

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

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST BUNCH meets at the Lonestar Café (Hwy 92 and Hereford Rd) at 9 AM the 2nd Fri. each month (May 8). All women welcome - come for the fun of it!! Call Margaret for info: 458-1237.

UU MEN'S LUNCHEON is held every 3rd Thurs. (May 21) at 11:30 AM at the Landmark Café, located at 400 W. Fry Boulevard.

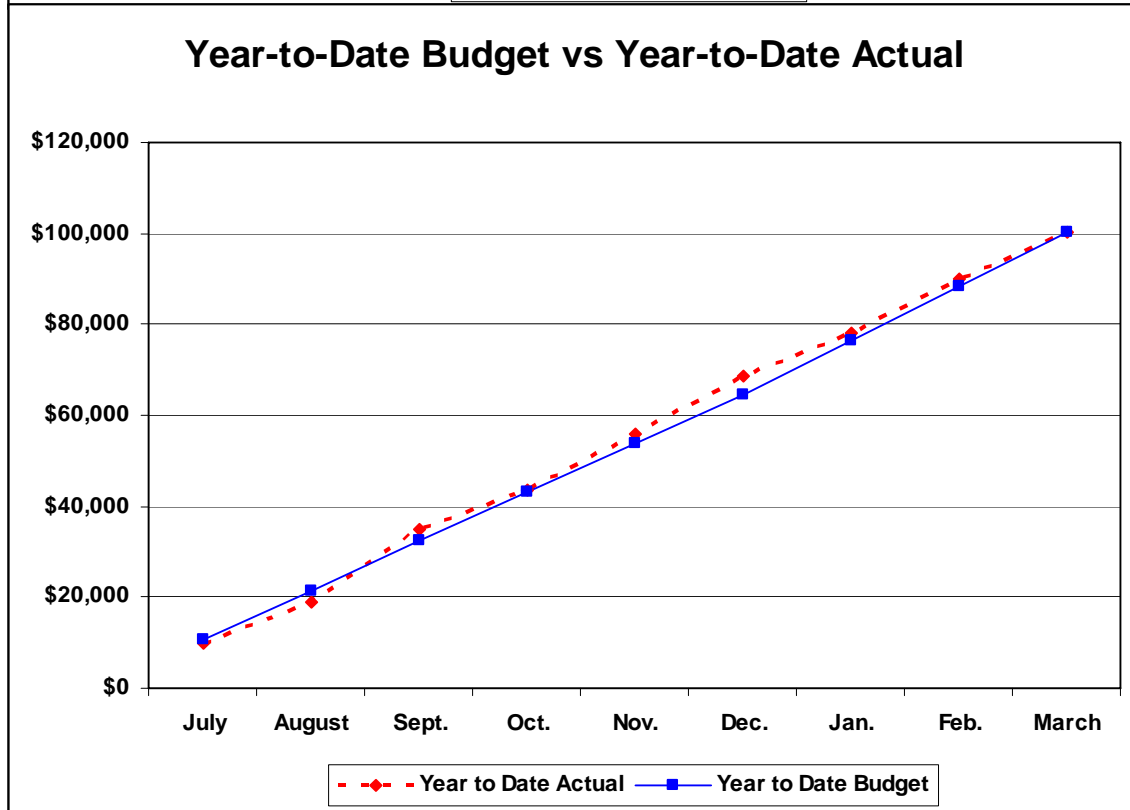
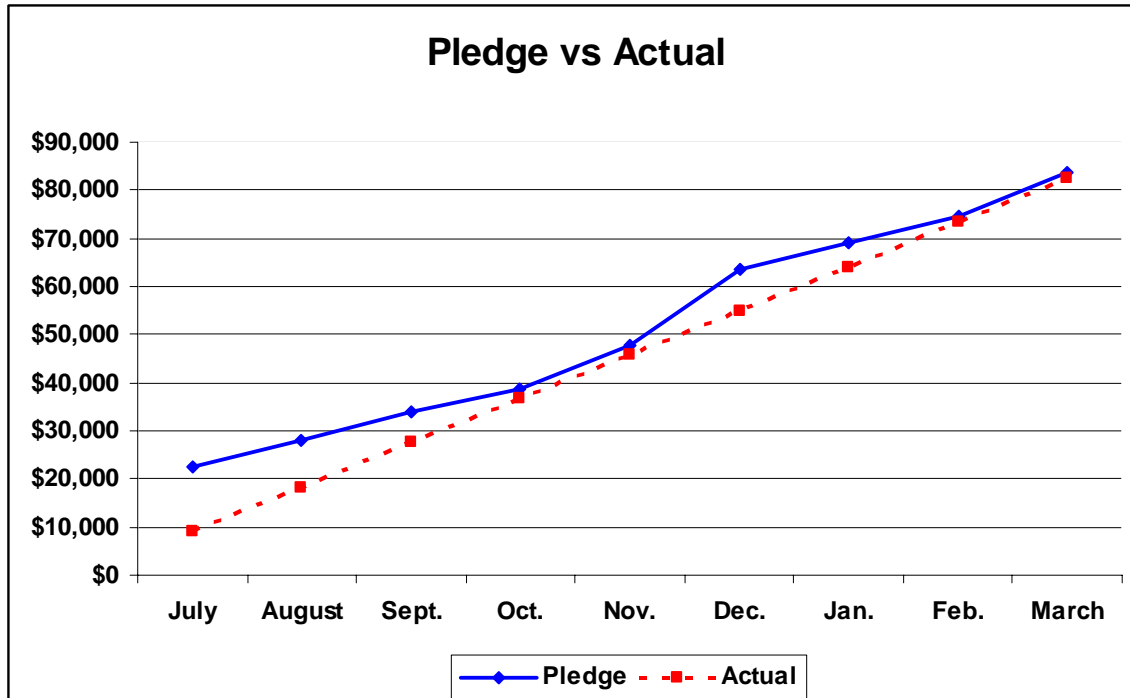
THE BOARD MEETING will meet the first Tuesday in May (May 5) at 3 PM at the UUCSEA Office.

Pledges, Budget, and Expenditures

Submitted by Jerry Covey

As you can see by the graphs, we are “holding our own” when it comes to staying within our Pledges and within our Budget. By the end of the 3rd quarter of this fiscal year, we have maintained our Pledge rate. By this time of the fiscal year we should have collected 75% of the Pledges and we have actually received 76% of the Pledges.

Our expenses have pretty much stayed within our Budget for the fiscal year. By the end of the 3rd quarter of this fiscal year, we are about \$46 over budget. Year-to-date budget is \$100,154. Year-to-date actual is \$100,200.



UUCSEA Garage Sale

The UUCSEA Garage Sale is scheduled to run Friday & Saturday, May 15th & 16th, from 7 AM to 1 PM at 1003 Pico Ct. Directions are from Hwy 92 turn east, go to Camino del Norte (first street after apartments on left) turn left, go seven streets and turn right, we are at the end of cul de sac.

Folks can begin to bring stuff anytime after the 1st but a call first at 255-4584. If someone is going to be out of town they can bring their things sooner.



There will be a sign up sheet for folks to sign up for what they would like to do, pricing, set up, helping days of sale etc.

Questions? Contact Barbara Vercoe at 255-4584 or barbvercoe@cox.net.

UUCSEA Social Action Donates Books

UUCSEA Social Action, working for you and the community. Books donated to the S.V. Public Library, Spring 2009.

Adult Books:

- The Triple Bottom Live - Savitz
- Making Sustainability Work - Epstein
- Sustainable Value - Laszlo
- Sustainability by Design - Ehrenfeld
- The Necessary Revolution - Senge
- The Sustainability Advantage - Willard
- The Sustainability Advantage - Blackburn



Kids Books:

- Earth Book for Kids - Schwartz, Linda
- The Everything Kids Environment Book
- A Child's Introduction to the Environment - Driscoll, Michael

Social Action Survey

The Social Action survey results are in and we thank each of you who participated. The results are as follows:

1. Should we keep the present allocations formula? yes 11 no 23
2. What should the formula be? social services 70% environmental education 28% other 2%
3. Where should Social Action funds be spent? local 70% state / national 17% international 13%
4. Select two areas for Social Action focus.
 - _____ • Economic justice and assistance 31
 - _____ • Sustainability 17
 - _____ • Border Issues 7
 - _____ • Peace Issues 4
 - _____ • Democracy Issues 9

5. In what activities would you be willing to participate?

This question drew 19 responses on the following:
 any activity we might sponsor;
 cook for the homeless shelter;
 support for food bank;
 support Earth Charter Summit;
 democracy issues;
 border issues;
 request for information on UUA Social Action activities;
 child welfare.

6. Other suggestions or comments?

This drew six responses: sponsor an organic garden for the community on our land;
 find practical ways to measure results of our efforts;
 could Social Action meet at a time other than Sunday?
 need to focus efforts and money on other economic stress in our community and country.



The Social Action focus for the coming year will reflect the priorities as set by the congregation.

We invite you to join the Social Action efforts. We presently meet at 9:30 am on the first Sunday of each month.

Submitted by Social Action Chair, Burt Jones

UUCSEA Pledge Celebration

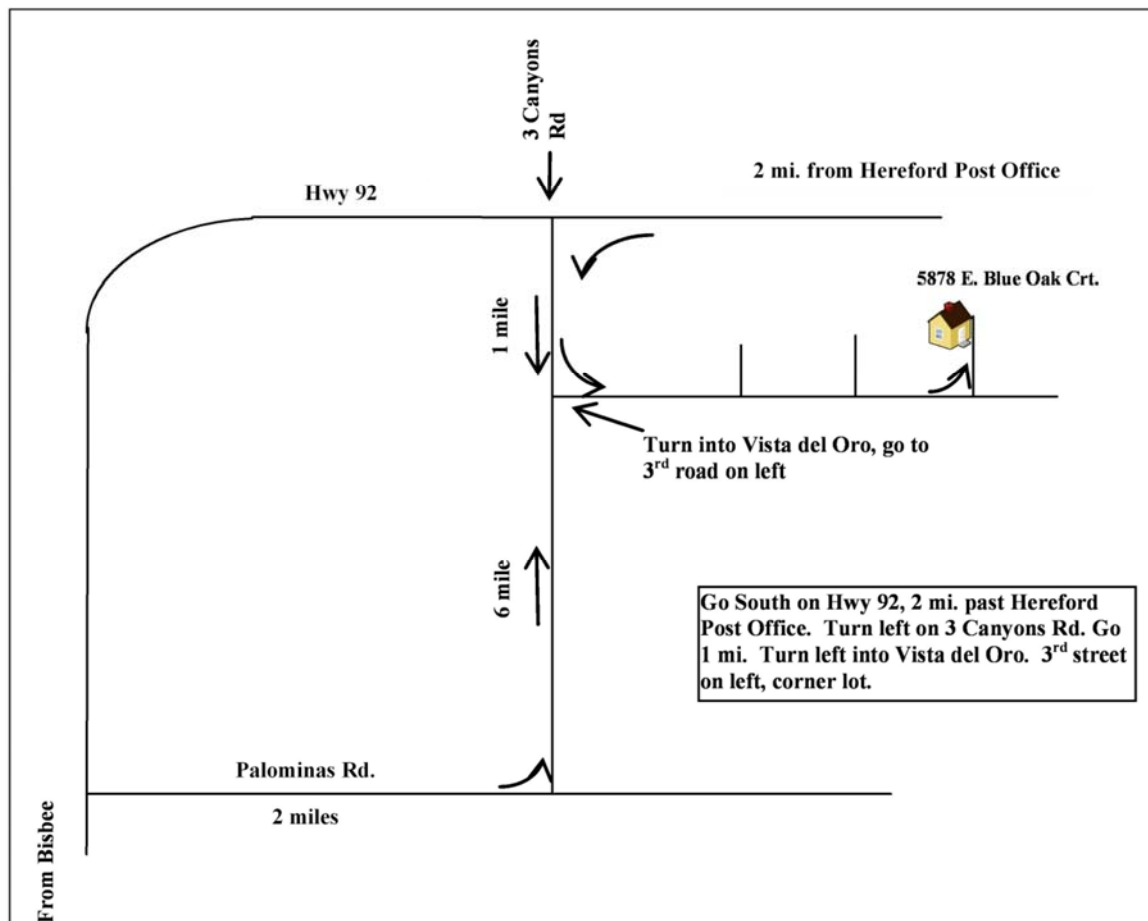
The celebration will be at the Covey's on May 9th, from 5:30 to 7:00. A map is attached and you do not need a code to get in the gate.

We will have a children and vegetarian friendly taco bar as well as adult beverages. Morris and Molly will bring their famous margaritas, Kerry will have his homemade beer, and Burt has a case of "Three Buck Chuck". No worry, there will also be plenty of non alcoholic beverages. Please bring your own plates.

Our entertainment will be spectacular. We can say that because Phil Taylor has agreed to present "Jabberwocky" and we are asking for YOU to be part of fun. Please plan on presenting whatever it is you would like to present or do whatever you have always wanted to do or sing. It will be memorable.

Call us if you have questions. (803-1656 or 234-4973)

Sharon and Jerry Covey



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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