

Connections EA

November 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 November 2009

November 1, 2009

Rev. Rod Richards

Salem Witch Trials.

Our fascination with witchcraft, the Devil, spirits and ghosts are given free reign around this time of year. However, there was a time in our history when the absolute belief in such things as interpreted by the prevailing form of Christianity resulted in tragic circumstances and an uneasy legacy.

November 8, 2009

UUCSEA Members & Friends

Water Ceremony

Many windows, one light. Many waters, one sea. Come share in a celebration of community and a ritual of reverence for this most precious gift of the earth.

November 15, 2009

Rev. Rod Richards

U & U: The Merger of Unitarianism and Universalism

Fifty years ago, the two denominations voted to unite, but some would say we have yet to fully merge these traditions. What are the strengths, weaknesses, insights and oversights of each? How do we carry them forward in ways that strengthen our congregations and bless the world

November 22, 2009

Rev. Rod Richards

Guest at Your Table

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee partners with people around the world to insure basic human rights. Current campaigns are focused on the right to clean water and the right to education for all.

November 29, 2009

Haresh Bakshi & Lorraine Groberg

Life in India

Ingathering music begins at 10:15.



Rod's Reflections

The Poles of our Principles

I would define the "religious impulse" as that which propels us to create meaning from our experience, our reflections, our relationships, our investigation and analysis of the world and this existence that we share. The conclusions, revelations, insights that we gather along the way, we name truths, as they serve to shape and direct our lives. By living out these truths, we create meaning.

For me, this process is carried out in a dynamic back-and-forth movement between the poles of our first and seventh principles. To review:

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person.
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

This is not to say that the other principles are not important, mind you...only to say that these clarify for me two ends of a spectrum, balancing (however erratically or imperfectly) in creative tension.

For instance, I live with the firm conviction that each individual has something to offer this world. I believe that what we do with and for one another, from the most courageous campaigns for social justice to the smallest, everyday encounters in which we let another person know that we are present to them, standing with them...these things matter. The love that we send along the interdependent web has a ripple effect that we will never fully grasp, but in which we are grateful participants.

I am also inspired by those times when my individuality is swept away amidst even the vaguest recognition of the vastness of the universe. There are those "oceanic" experiences, standing by the ocean (appropriately enough), or gazing at the stars, or simply looking at a timeline of life on earth and seeing the miniscule amount of time that this creature called "human" has been around. There is that realization that whatever mystery lies at the heart of the interdependent web, humans are, indeed, simply a *part*.

In other words, my religion traverses the space between realizing that I matter and the accompanying realization that it—whatever *it* turns out to be—is not about *me*. *(Continued on page 3)*

The ***UUCSEA Connections*** is published monthly by the *Unitarian Universalist Church of Southeastern Arizona*. The church can be contacted by writing to P.O. Box 3123, Sierra Vista, AZ 85636-3123

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Treasurer: Danielle Mackenzie
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Wally Hoggatt
Terry Erickson
Suzanne Stoffolano

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🌀 Terry Zapotocky, Board President 🌀

Thank you for your generosity. For Empty Bowls, \$1,225.50 was raised for the food banks in Cochise County from cash donations and the sale of food. The dream catchers that the Squirrels made plus the 2 decorated boxes that Rouanna donated raised an additional \$ 124.00 from the silent auction. In addition I took a carload of donated staple food to the Salvation Army food bank. The staff were most grateful for the food. Thanks to all of you who brought soup, bread or dessert to eat on Oct. 11 for Empty Bowls. Also thanks to those who helped to set up, serve and cleanup, and to Lorraine Groberg and Jeanne Landwehr for staying to count all the money collected. The money will be divided between the St. Vincent DePaul foodbank, Good Neighbor Alliance and the Bisbee Coalition for the Homeless. A big hug of gratitude goes to Rouanna Gardner who did an excellent job of organizing Empty Bowls. More thanks go to Ann Danell and Debra Hoyle for showing the Squirrels how to make the Dream Catchers.

In the overall scheme of things, the really important news is that the new chocolate candy flavor to be unveiled on Nov. 1 will be ROSE CHOCOLATE. Thank you for your generosity on October 4. A total of \$324 was raised on Association Sunday for the Unitarian Universalist Association. More thanks goes to Jean MacKeen who purchased and donated recycled paper to print our Order of Service.

I'm really excited about the water service on November 8. Pamela Lee, Lorraine Groberg, Jay Jenkins, Ed Waters, Jean MacKeen, and especially Mitzi Jones have been busy planning the service. Pamela, Jay, Ed and Mitzi will read original poems written by them. The RE children will also read their own poems. Jean will play beautiful water themed music and read a poem. Suzanne Stoffolano, Lorraine, and Dave Groberg will also read poems. Sharon Douglas has 2 lovely water hymns for the congregation to sing and a water anthem for the choir. The lighting of the chalice will be sung by the children and will also be watery. Lorraine will facilitate the service. The Theater for all Ages will perform "Wanda the Water Drop with a Dream". John Faust will show slides of water coordinated with all the music and poems. There will be no RE that day as the children will be participating in the entire service.

November 22 will be Guest at Your Table, the campaign to raise money for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. UUSC works around the world to secure basic human rights such as the right to clean water, education, freedom of speech and religion, a living wage, freedom from political oppression. Remember the colorful cardboard boxes from years past that most everyone misplaced by the end of the campaign? This year again as last year we will be saving trees and postage by using collection envelopes instead of boxes. The envelopes also makes it easier for our UUSC local rep (yours truly) and overworked Treasurer rather than trying to wrangle all those boxes.

Speaking of our Treasurer, Danielle Mackenzie (she's keeping the last name) should be back from her honeymoon by the time this newsletter reaches you. Hopefully she'll have lots of pictures to share with us. As acting Treasurer in her absence, I want to tell you—not that I mean to scare future treasurers away—but it's no picnic being Treasurer! So if you remember, please thank her for the job she's doing.

Believe it or not, I've run out of steam. 5 down and 12 to go.

Thank you to Ed and Ellie Waters for preparing this newsletter.

(Rod continued)

If such a realization can combat the religious hubris and technological arrogance that has allowed humans to wreak devastation on the earth in the hopes of a God-given upgrade or a scientific breakthrough, I hope that it spreads. Whatever path we take, I find comfort in knowing that what we do—who we are today—matters and that, finally, it is all much bigger than us.

See you on Sunday

Rod

Board Meeting

The next board meeting is November 22 at 1 p.m. at the church office 1020 E. Fry Blvd. Others may attend.



Office News

Jay Jenkins is our office manager. He is responsible for the physical upkeep of the office and for scheduling office and computer use. Contact Jay at Ph. 432-9024,

Looking To Sign Up...for anything?

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.



WELCOMING CONGREGATION WORKSHOPS

will meet at 1:00pm at UUCSEA office, 1022 E. Fry Blvd.

Sun., Nov. 1—Racism and Homophobia / Heterosexism

Sun., Nov. 8—HIV/AIDS

Come join in the discussion and exploration of religious, cultural and personal issues surrounding our intentional affirmation and welcome of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

EDITORS' NOTE:

Many thanks to Kerry Hales for keeping the computer working, and to Rod and Debra Hoyle for coming to our calls for help.

CONTACT OUR CHURCH

Call 378-0197 Volunteers will answer during office hours. You may also leave a message. Our e-mail address is: uucsea.admin@gmail.com. The office is located on 1020 E. Fry Blvd. and is open Mon., Wed., and Fri. from 11 am—3pm.



CONTACT OUR MINISTER directly by calling Rod Richards at 520-732-4770 . Minister's office hours are Wed. 1 pm-5 pm and Fri. 11 am-3 pm. Members, friends or visitors are invited to call or e-mail (r-richards@uuma.org) Rod to schedule an appointment.

Monday is Rod's day off. Rod will be on vacation this month from Nov. 23—Dec. 2. For urgent matters you can reach him with the contact information listed above.

Announcements:

We will do our best to get all current and pertinent announcements printed in the order of service. However, if there are announcements that need to be conveyed at the service, we ask that you get these to us in a brief written format using the forms that will be available prior to the service. They will be collected at 10:25 AM by a service facilitator.

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>.

TUESDAYS WITH UU: Nov. 3, 10, & 17, 6-8 PM, Rod will host a class on Unitarian, Universalist and Unitarian Universalist history. Bring your questions; bring your answers; bring your picks and shovels as we dig into the past in search of the precious artifacts of our living tradition.

INFORMATION FOR NEWSLETTER, ORDER OF SERVICE OR CALENDAR

Send to uucsea.admin@gmail.com. Please label Newsletter, Order of Service, and/or Calendar.



THE CHURCH CALENDAR

is available online at <http://www.uuchurchseaz.org>

UUCSEA ACTIVITIES

Book Group for November

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

November 15 – First They Killed My Father by Loung Ung, review by Therese Erickson and Jan Boucher. One of seven children of a high-ranking government official, Loung Ung lived a privileged life in the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh until the age of five. Then, in April 1975, Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge army stormed into the city forcing Ung's family to flee and, eventually, to disperse. Loung was trained as a child soldier in a work camp for orphans, her siblings were sent to labor camps, and those who survived the horrors would not be reunited until the Khmer Rouge was destroyed. Wonderfully written, Ung chose to tell the story in a child's voice and from a child's point of view. (A. from 3.25 – L. 4 copies)



December – No Book Group Meeting

January 18 – An Afternoon of Reviews – Readers may choose to bring a brief review of a book or magazine article to share with the group- as many as time allows. Listeners are welcome.

February 21 – The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court by Jeffrey Toobin, reviewed by Jodie Hoekstra. The author offers the chance to ponder which of those justices talked to him for this book and which did not. Those that did offered their off-the-record whispers about the "inside" story of the "secret" world of our nine justices. (A= from \$5.00 – L= 5)

March 21 – 1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus by Charles C. Mann, reviewed by Burl Schultz. In textbook versions of the New World at the time of Columbus we read about America's abundance of animals, fish, and primeval forests. In South America came tales of riches buried in secret gold mines in pristine jungle. And except for isolated societies such as the Inca in Peru, the Maya in Mexico and bands of primitives in the North, almost no one lived in this fantastic paradise. Mann, a contributing editor for Science and the Atlantic Monthly, explores a growing body of archaeological, anthropological and historical scholarship to suggest that this convenient version of virgin American wilderness is likely completely wrong. (A= from \$7.84 – L= 5).

The Book Group meets the 3rd Sunday of each month, 2:30 to 4:00 PM at the UUCSEA Office. You are welcome whether or not you have read the book. ??? Ed and Ellie Waters, 459-3390 or edellie@intergate.com

For all readers: We are getting ready for a new year of Book Reviews. If you have read a book or have a suggestion for a book to be reviewed or would like to review a book, we would appreciate your letting us know as soon as you can.

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST BUNCH

meets at the Lonestar Café (Hwy 92 and Hereford Rd) at 9 AM the 2nd Fri. each month (Nov. 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. (Nov. 19) at 11:30 AM at the Landmark Café, located at 400 W. Fry Blvd.

Cinema Circle

The next Cinema Circle film will be on Friday November 6th at 7:00 P.M. The film is "Saving Face." Dutiful daughter Wil (Michelle Krusied) sidesteps her mother's ([Joan Chen](#)) attempts to marry her off in [Alice Wu](#)'s romantic comedy set in New York. At 28, Wil's the old maid of her traditional Chinese family, so there's no way she can tell them about her budding romance with Vivian ([Lynn Chen](#)). But there's no avoiding mom's meddling matchmaking when she shows up on Wil's doorstep looking for a place to stay.



The film will be at 2148 Remington Drive, Sierra Vista. ??Contact Gary Rulapaugh at 439-2830

Winter Feast

Therese Erickson will sell tickets for the Winter Feast. Tickets are \$10.00 per adult. All those under 18 years old are welcome and do not require a ticket.

The date is Saturday, December 5th at Vista View Clubhouse. Please mark your calendar. Festivities start at 3pm, we eat at 5pm and everyone leaves around 8pm.

I need some helpers to pull off this event:

~ A group to prepare and bring all the hors d'oeuvres.

~ A group (4 people) to set and arrange all tables and place all decorations (about 1 hour before the party), same group to put everything back.

~One person to assemble and bring the green salad.

~A clean-up committee (kitchen and dining hall)

Please contact Rouanna — Hope you are looking forward to this as much as I am.

UUCSEA News, Information and Opportunities

Good Neighbor Alliance

The UUCSEA cooks at the Good Neighbor Alliance on the 3rd Monday every month. Volunteers are always needed to help prepare the dinner for homeless guests that are staying at the shelter. Please prepare the dinner, starting at 4pm and it should be ready to serve at 6pm. The bonus here is that volunteers don't have to do the dishes...unless they really want to. Please see Ann Danell at 456-0183 for further details.

There are also other available days for cooking at Good Neighbor Alliance for each month. If you are interested in cooking, please sign-up at the "Opportunity" table. For a list of those dates, please contact Mitzi Jones at 378-6408.

SOUP SUNDAY

It was a nice reprieve not being responsible for Soup Sunday in October. Thanks for a great response to the Empty Bowls for our community.

On November 8, we are looking forward to having soup made by Corinne Edwards, Burt Jones, Ellen Taylor and Ed and Ellie Waters. Thanks to all. Therese.



November Days of Power

2 November - Full Moon (Mourning Moon)
 3 November - Election Day
 11 November - Veteran's Day
 16 November - New Moon
 25 November - Celtic Tree Month of Elder (for the UUCSEA Druids)
 26 November - Thanksgiving Day

Since there is no Wiccan Sabbat (holiday), I thought I would start sharing some Druid information.

The Celts believed that many trees were inhabited by spirits or had spirits of their own. This idea most notably applied to any tree with a strong aura around it. They also believed that certain trees had a healing influence on humans. From this ancient respect for the power of trees came the expressions 'touch wood' and 'knock on wood'.

Oak, ash, and thorn were called the faery triad of trees. Where they grow together, it is still said that faeries live. — Debra Hoyle

Decoupage Box Workshop

Sun Nov 29, 1pm – 4pm at the UU Office. Shirley Sandy is offering this workshop. The cost is \$10.00 per adult to cover supplies (box, glue, scissors, paper, and accessories). This is an opportunity to make a beautiful gift for a friend or loved one. For information call Shirley @ 458-5327. This is for adults only.

CIRCLE SUPPERS



Sign Up and get to know your fellow UUCSEA members and friends

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. Many of our members and friends have told us how much they enjoy participating.

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 Sue Speicher will be carrying clipboards after the next few services. There is also a sign-up sheet on the sign-up table. We invite you join us. Please feel free to call Virginia at 458-6284 or Sue Speicher at 432-9190.

Quilting Group

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



UU Squirrels Corner

On Saturday, November 21st, Roland Bockhorst is offering an introduction to flight. Basically "how humans get off the ground". Meet at the UU Office, this runs from 1 to 4pm. This is the last UU Kids Event for 2009. We start again in January 2010 with Burt's* Cooking School.



*This will make a full year of Burt's Cooking School Classes. Hurray for Burt. Does anyone else wish to further the culinary endeavors of our UU Kids? Coordinate with Burt for a smooth transition (if he is willing to let this go).

I'd like to thank everyone for their help and enthusiasm for the Annual Empty Bowls event. The UU Squirrels worked hard making beautiful items to auction off as well as helped serve soup to the starving multitudes of UU's clamoring after soup. Well done Squirrels. The quality of the homemade foods that arrive for our eating enjoyment always astounds me. It is a pleasure to do the footwork to bring us together to eat. The generosity and outpouring of funds and supplies to support our local food banks make me proud to be a UU. The help to set-up, monitor the soups, assist during the event, clean-up and take the dishes home to wash happen spontaneously and enthusiastically, and I am grateful. I'd also like to thank our auction and ticket table attendee. Everyone did a great job. See you next year, Rouanna Garden

COVENANT GROUPS COMING SOON!

We're looking toward a January start-up. If you would like to participate, be sure and sign up. Sign up lists will be available at Sunday Services. Any questions? Contact Lorraine Groberg or Rev. Rod Richards.

Right Relations Workshop at UUCNWT (Mountain Vista UU)

This is the very important announcement regarding our Right Relations Workshop: Whats, Whys, and Hows, to be held at our Sanctuary (3601 W. Cromwell Drive, Tucson; office phone 520-579-7094) on Saturday, November 21, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Please feel free to contact me, Debbie Gessaman, or Karla Brockie, about any questions you may have. We believe covenants of right relations are essential to having healthy church congregations.

We hope many of you will join us in our endeavors in this area.

Thanks for all you do.

Debbie Gessaman,
UUCNWT Right Relations Task Force

Music Notes



How time flies! It seems only yesterday that Kellie Walker, from Valley UU Church in Chandler, AZ, shared her song-leading skills with our congregation. On September 29, she presented "Singing from the Heart," describing how music promotes healing on a spiritual level.

Following her lead, we have included ingathering music in our services. Ingathering music provides a special kind of welcome, invites participation, and allows us to enter into the service as a community: many voices, one song.

— Sharon Douglas

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!
November Birthdays**

November 9 —Debra Hoyle

November 12 — John Faust

November 23 — Alyia Helmstetter
(Sweet 16th)



If your birthday has not been listed and you would like to have it placed in the Newsletter, please e-mail us at uucsea.admin@gmail.com

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS



A special recognition of those who have joined our congregation during the year will take place at the November 8th Sunday Service.

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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