

Connections EA

September 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 / September 2009

September 6, 2009

Rev. Rod Richards

Making a Living / Making a Life

Making a living means working...and getting paid, right? But how does that translate into making a life? What do we do with the fruits of our labor? What about the value of volunteering? How do we see our work in the world? A special musical presentation by Louise Walker and Vickie Lachmanek.

September 13, 2009

Rev. Rod Richards

"Unitarian Universalists Are Like That..."

Like what, exactly? Come take part in a "conversational sermon" as we explore together who we think we are, who we are, and who we want to be.

September 20, 2009

Rev. Rod Richards

Covenant Groups

How are you connected with other people in the congregation? How many opportunities do you have to speak fearlessly and honestly from your own experience and be heard? How many chances do you have to listen deeply and attentively to another? We invite you on a journey to strengthen our shared ministry with one another and with the wider world.

September 27, 2009

Kellie Walker & Sharon Douglas

Singing from the Heart

Kellie Walker, Director of Music Ministry at Valley Unitarian Universalist Church in Chandler, AZ, has developed an Outreach program called HeartSongs, teaching music that will feed the soul of the music-maker and be appropriate to share in various care and community settings. This service will feature wonderful congregational singing led by Kellie and Sharon, so be ready to "make a joyful noise!" *In gathering music begins at 10:15.*



Rod's Reflections

The Times They Are(n't) a-Changin'

Someone said that "the only constant is change." Appropriately enough the attribution for that quotation *changes* depending on where you run across it, including people as far-flung from one another across time as Heraclites and Isaac Asimov. Though we may be uncertain about the exact source of this reflection, we are more certain about the truth it contains. Things change. New discoveries are made. Old ways of living are replaced. Life is impermanent. That which we never dreamed of before becomes reality. That which we try to hold onto we must eventually let go.

There is a part of us that welcomes change. There is still a feeling that the change we choose to effect as human beings can make a positive difference. Politicians run on a platform of change, from promising "change we can believe in" to assuring us that "change can't wait." We look toward a new and better way, a new and brighter way. Who can really bring the change that we need?

However, we humans also have a great resistance to change. Change is unsettling, unnerving, makes us feel vulnerable. We will often retreat from possibility because of the fear of the unknown. People sometimes continue in painful relationships, angrily defending these very oppressive situations, just so they can hold onto something familiar. There can be a comfort even in circumstances that look from the outside to be exceedingly uncomfortable, if not unacceptable.

This syndrome can often grasp us most firmly right on the cusp of great and positive change. As the book of Exodus reports, when Moses led the Israelites out of their bondage in Egypt many of them complained saying, "Was it for want of graves in Egypt that you brought us to die in the wilderness?...Let us be, and we will serve the Egyptians, for it is better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness!" In other words, thanks for setting us free and all that, but this wilderness looks way too hard and scary and yeah, slavery is bad, but it's what we know.

We are poised on the edge of amazing possibilities. The cracking of a corrupt and unjust economic system can free us from the oppression of what once felt inevitable and eternal. The push for healthcare reform can be directed by a re-visioning of what our responsibilities are to each other in a civil society. The climate change crisis calls on us to alter our relationship to all of life, honoring the mystery of all that is and operating from a firm recognition--intellectually, spiritually and ethically--of our humble position in the interdependent web.

It's wilderness ahead. But wilderness is precisely what has been disappearing, to the detriment of all life. Let's not shrink from the responsibility of freedom. Let's not hide from the inevitability of change, clutching the tired slogans and mindsets of a world that has passed.

We can refuse to embrace the change, but change, as the song says, is gonna come. May we meet it with compassion and courage.

See you on Sunday,
Rod

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

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: Terry Zapotocky

Secretary: Pamela Lee

Treasurer: Danielle Mackenzie

Board Members are:

Jim Horton

Wally Hoggatt

Terry Erickson

Suzanne Stoffolano

Board meeting will be held August 20 at 6 PM at the UUCSEA Office. Meetings are open to members and friends.

Congregation Contacts:

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, Directory, Emails, District and

Association Information: Debra Hoyle

(uucsea.communications@gmail.com)

Finance: Morris Farr

Flowers: Virginia Farrar

Greeters: Margaret Carlstrom

Library: Terry Zapotocky

Membership:

Music Director: Sharon Douglas

Office Manager: Jay Jenkins

(uucsea.officemanager@gmail.com)

Newsletter: Ellen Taylor, Ed and Ellie Waters

(uucsea.admin@gmail.com)

Pledge Chair: Carol Hanrahan

Religious Education: Heather Kutch

Social Action: Burt Jones

Social Events Director: Rouanna Garden

Sunday Services:

Web Site: Kerry Hales

Listen Carefully; I Will Only Say This Once.

Terry Zapotocky, Board President



Well it's 2 down and 11 more to go, but who's counting?

For the sake of transparency, the By-Laws and the Policies and Procedures of our congregation are now posted on our web site. Rod and Kerry are working on a pain free way to post the minutes from the various committees as they are adopted and submitted. This will improve communication between the various committees and between the committees and the congregation. Since the Committee on Ministry often deals with personal matters regarding the relationship between our minister and the congregation, the minutes from this committee will not be posted for the sake of privacy. To get to the UUCSEA policies and procedures go to the UUCSEA web site @ <http://www.uuchurchseaz.org> and click on "Members" then click on "Policies and Procedures". If you want to skip a step, go to <http://www.uuchurchseaz.org/members.thml> then click on P & P. Thank you Kerry Hales for taking the time to post these important pieces of information and for setting up the link from the web site to the P & Ps. Thank you Kerry for also getting the sermons on the web site every week so those unable to attend the service can listen to the sermon.

By the way, since the other committees have had their names changed from "committee" to "ministry" to indicate our shared ministry, for example the Social Action Committee is now the SA Ministry, does the Committee on Ministry become the Ministry Ministry? The purpose of the Committee on Ministry "is to counsel with the minister regarding the effectiveness of the congregation's ministry, to confer on priorities, to provide feedback on congregational matters, and to generally promote the overall ministry of the congregation". The Committee is the minister's support group, and also looks at the health of the shared ministry between the congregation and the minister. The Committee will have a role in deciding the pieces of the ministry that need to be worked out during Rod's sabbatical next year. Don't panic! All systems will be planned for and under control when the time comes for Rod's sabbatical. The Committee meets monthly with Rod and reports to the Board quarterly or as needed. They will be meeting with the Board at the August 20 meeting. The Committee currently consists of Lorraine Groberg, Patricia burr and Max Frye and each member serves for a 3 year term. Thank you to the three of you for your service to our congregation.

The Welcoming Committee will be starting their workshops after the service at the church office on August 23 at 1 PM. They will last about 2 hours. Please try to attend these informative and consciousness raising workshops about welcoming the gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual communities to our congregation. 1st Sunday of each month.

The Membership Committee currently consisting of Margaret Carlstrom and yours truly met on August 19 with Rod. The plan is to change the wording in the prospective member packets to include welcoming language for the GLBT communities in the welcoming letters from Rod, the Board President and the Membership Committee. Also, the new member lunch will be November 7 at the office from 11 AM to 1 PM. Anyone who has signed the New Member Book since October 18, 2008 will be invited to attend. The lunch will be a pot luck buffet. Anyone interested in helping with this event, please contact me.

(Cont'd on Page 3)

Cont' from Page 2

On Sunday August 2, two of our newer members shared with the congregation their UU journeys during the service. Thank you Susan Fawcett and Frena Gray-Davidson for your heart felt descriptions of how and why you became members of UUCSEA. If anyone else is interested in sharing their UU journey with the congregation at some time in the future, please contact Rod.

By the time this newsletter is prepared, the Audit Committee may have completed their exhausting work of auditing the accounts for the 2008-09 fiscal year. Once their results have been finalized, the summary will be posted somewhere (as yet to be determined) for all of us to see, though they will be password protected. Don't worry, there will be no mention of who did or did not donate what. The purpose of the audit is to make sure we are following proper accounting procedures and to make suggestions on how the Treasurer and Bookkeeper might improve their record keeping. Thank you Dave Weigel, Carolyn Edwards and Uda Gordon for agreeing to perform this short term but intensive work.

October 11 is the 2nd annual Empty Bowls Soup Luck to help raise money and non-perishable food items for the food banks in the Sierra Vista and Bisbee area. The RE children will be working on dream catchers to auction off that day also to help raise funds. Last year we raised over \$1100. This year, with the increased demand on the food banks due to the recession, there is an increased need for donations. Let's see if we can surpass last year's donations. Anyone willing to help with this project, please contact me.

Finally, here are the words of Dr. Brian L. Weiss, M.D. "Words make a powerful impact and they are not easily forgotten. Wounds inflicted by words of anger or hate can last a very long time." I promise to try to follow this advise in my writing and

Board Meeting

The next board meeting is September 27 at 1PM at the church office 1020 E Fry Blvd.

**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, Cell 249-7951, email: uucsea.officemanager.com@gmail.com.

**Miscellaneous Scheduling and Announcements****CONTACT INFORMATION:**

The church phone number is (378-0197) will now ring at the office. Volunteers will answer during office hours. You may also leave messages if no one is available to answer.



To reach Rod directly, the phone number is 732-4770.

The church email for order of service announcements, calendar updates, newsletter submissions, etc. is uucsea.admin@gmail.com.

CHURCH CALENDAR: <http://www.uuchurchseaz.org/>

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 verbally announced at the service, we ask that you get these to us in written format, either by email (uucsea.admin@gmail.com) or using the forms that will be available prior to the service. Brief information on What, When, Where and Who is all that we need. They will be collected at 10:25 AM by the service facilitator.

MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS & SCHEDULE: Rod's regular office hours are Wednesdays from 1 PM – 5 PM and Fridays from 10 AM – 2 PM. Members, friends, or visitors to the congregation are invited to call (732-4770) 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>.

AFTER WORDS: Would you like to share your reflections on something you heard in the service you just attended? Or last Sunday's sermon? Do you have questions about Unitarian Universalism? About our congregation? Join us at the UUCSEA Office on the second Sunday of the month (September 13) at 1:00 PM for an informal conversation about what's on your mind. A special invitation goes out to newer members and visitors who would like to learn more about our congregation and our liberal religious tradition. I look forward to seeing you there. —Rod



UUCSEA Activities

Book Group for September Newsletter

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

September 20 - *When the Mississippi Ran Backwards: Empire, Intrigue Murder and the New Madrid Earthquakes I* by Jay Feldman review by Rouanna Garden. "This book sheds light on this now-obscure yet pivotal period between the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, uncovering the era's dramatic geophysical, political and military upheavals. Feldman paints a vivid picture of how these powerful earthquakes made an impact on every aspect of frontier life – and why similar catastrophic quakes are guaranteed to recur. (A. from 6.40 – L.2 copies)



October 18– *Mister Pip* by Lloyd Jones review by Jeanne Landwehr. *Mister Pip* is the compelling story of a girl caught in the throes of war on the island of Bougainville in Papua New Guinea. A fictional creation from the mind of Charles Dickens himself, Pip helps Matilda maintain a desire to live, especially after her mother, the wise Mr. Watts, and her island ceased to exist. (Jeanne will pick up copies at the library and make them available.)

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 Camodian 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

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.

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, then sign-up please. A list of those dates will be given to Mitzi Jones, so please see her for further details.

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST BUNCH meets at the Lonestar Café (Hwy 92 and Hereford Rd) at 9 AM the 2nd Fri. each month (Sept 11). All women welcome - come for the fun of it!! Call Margaret for info: 458-1237.



UU MEN'S LUNCHEON is held every 3rd Thurs. (Sept 17) at 11:30 AM at the Landmark Café, located at 400 W.Fry Blvd..



Cinema Circle

The Cinema Circle film will resume on Friday September 4th at 7:00 P.M. The film is "Snow Cake." It is about a sour older man (Alan Rickman) who reluctantly gives a teenage girl a ride. Just as he is getting to know her, a large truck hits his car and kills the girl. The man tries to offer his condolences to the girl's mother, only to find she is an autistic adult. Sigourney Weaver does a marvelous job of playing the autistic mother. 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



UU Squirrels Corner

Hear Ye, Hear Ye
The UU Kids are now the UU Squirrels. Picked by unanimous consciences August 2ed, 2009. Finishing an on-going project since January 25th, 2009.



Coming: Saturday October 19th.
Ms. Susan Fawcett has planned a day with horses for the UU Squirrels. This field trip will leave from the UU Office at 1pm. It is requested that all interested parties RSVP with Ms. Fawcett at 459-2225. Dress for fun with dust, leather, sun and more in mind.

Happy Birthday to You! September Birthdays

September 1
Jean MacKeen
September 4
Karen Horton
September 16
Tom King
September 23
Melanie Mitchell



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

UUCSEA News, Information and Opportunities

Communications Committee

The new directory was completed in August. Any corrections or additions, please contact Debra Hoyle, Communications Chair.



Please send all emails that should be shared around all in the congregation to the following address: uucsea.communications@gmail.com

Soup Sunday

I want to make a correction to last months news article.

Virginia Farrar was the chef not Virginia Erickson. My apologies to both of our Virginia's.



The big announcement now is that **WE NEED TWO MORE CHEFS FOR THE SEPTEMBER SOUP AND SALAD SUNDAY**

If you enjoy this event and have not done the kitchen thing, this is your chance to be one of the chefs. Please see me after church or call me at 803-9260. If we do not have four chefs we will be canceling the next Soup and Salad Sunday Event. Therese Erickson

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.



September Days of Power

2 September - Celtic Tree Month of Vine (for the UUCSEA Druids)

4 September - Full Moon (Harvest Moon)

18 September - New Moon

21 September - Ramadan Ends

22 September - Mabon / Autumn Equinox

30 September - Celtic Tree Month of Ivy (for the UUCSEA Druids)



Mabon is the time of the Autumn Equinox, and the harvest has started to slow down. The fields are nearly bare, because the crops have been stored for the coming winter. It is a time when it is time to take a few moments to honor the changing seasons, and celebrate the second harvest. This is a thanksgiving for the fruits of the earth and do give a recognition of the need to share them to secure the blessings of the Goddess and God during the winter months.

The Autumn Equinox divides the day and night equally, and we take a moment to pay our respects to the impending dark. We also give thanks to the waning sunlight, as we store our harvest of this year's crops. The Druids call this celebration, Mea'n Fo'mhair, and honor the The Green Man, the God of the Forest, by offering libations to trees.

-submitted by Debra Hoyle

Quilting Group

Karen Horton has formed a quilting group to make quilts for charity. She loves to quilt and 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 office. Come learn new skills, socialize and help others. Everyone is welcome. Contact Karen at 378-2460. .



UUCT Fundraiser Trip

The UU Church of Tucson is planning a tour to beautiful and historic Santa Fe, New Mexico, for November 11-17, 2009. The cost will be \$850-\$900 for this week-long adventure with a tax-deductible donation to UUCT included. The tentative itinerary is as follows:

The itinerary may change somewhat, but we will finalize the itinerary and price by the end of August. For more information, contact Carolyn Saunders at c_saunders1@msn.com or visit the UUCT website: www.uuctucson.org.



Welcoming Congregation

From a sermon given on 08/09/2009:

You see, becoming a Welcoming Congregation to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender community is not a once-and-for-all-time endeavor. It is not just a box that we check on the Liberal Religious Certification handout. It is not about perfection (thank god!) because we are not imaginary super-heroes but human beings...it is not about perfection but purpose. Not so much a program as a process, an ongoing process that we willingly engage to provide the welcome that we wish to provide to our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender brothers and sisters who are with us, those who are waiting, and those who we have not yet given a clue that we exist!



We will engage this process by honestly sharing experiences and perceptions. We will explore hidden assumptions so that we can make conscious and conscientious choices about how we wish to be together. We will risk saying the wrong thing so that we can learn to say the compassionate thing. We will identify the boundaries of our own awareness so that we may expand those boundaries in thoughtful practice.

The Welcoming Congregation is directed toward the LGBT community (and you'll be hearing that shorthand a lot, most likely)—it is directed there, but it is for all of us. It is an intentional expression of our covenant and mission. It is an adventure of the mind and spirit. It is a living-out of who we are and who we are called to be. And though we will meet the challenges imperfectly, we will meet them together with the confidence with which we meet all our challenges: the confidence that love will, always, guide us.

R

Musical Notes

The 2nd Annual Community Hymn Festival will be held 2:00 pm Sunday, Sept 13, 2009, at St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church. In addition to leading the congregational singing, the Festival Choir will sing two anthems alone this year: *My Eternal King*, by Jane Marshall, and *Battle Hymn of the Republic*, words by Julia Ward Howe, music by William Steffe and arranged by Peter J. Wilhousky.

Jane Marshall has been known for many years for her anthems and for her choral conducting, which she still teaches at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University. Also a poet and hymn tune writer, she is represented in our hymnal, *Singing the Living Tradition*, with three hymns. She is the author of *Grace, Noted*, a collection of homilies, poems, and lectures. Jane holds Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from SMU, where she has also served on the English, Music, and Seminary faculties.



Unitarian **Julia Ward Howe** (1819-1910) dedicated her life to pacifism and women's suffrage. Said to be a believer in a loving God who cared about humankind, she was married to Samuel Howe, director of the Perkins Institute for the Blind. Ms. Howe felt that women should take a strong role in shaping society through politics. In 1870, she wrote the famous Mother's Day Proclamation, reading #573 in *Singing the Living Tradition*, as a pacifist reaction to the Civil War and Franco-Prussian War. Mother's Day, designed to honor the role of mothers in promoting peace, was eventually adopted as a national holiday by President Woodrow Wilson in 1914.

Roger Bayes, Minister of Worship, First Baptist Church, will again conduct the Festival which will be accompanied by brass choir, instrumentalists, and Lars Andersen on the pipe organ.

Editor's Note: Sharon Douglas will occasionally be sharing biographies of important UU musicians and composers gathered in her work toward certification in the Unitarian Universalists Musician's Network.

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

Annual Garden Canyon Picnic,

As you can see (photos) we played horseshoes and visited. We also had beer, good homemade food, fresh local fruit and vegetables, good stories and lots of laughs. We were hoping to see one of the over 40 bears in the vicinity but we made too much noise. Hope to see all of you again next year, Rouanna



Gary Rulapaugh and Dave Weigel tried out the horseshoe pit. We don't know who won.

Back row: Lorraine Groberg and Pamela Lee

Front Row: Susie Fawcett, Virginia Erickson, Lupe Rulapaugh, and the Rev Rod.

Owners of leg and hand unknown, entertaining the rest.



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

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