



Sedona Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
P. O. BOX 1670
SEDONA, ARIZONA 86339
www.SedonaUU.org



JANUARY 2009!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! (WITH A WISH FOR A HEALTHY, HAPPY NEW YEAR FOR ALL)

We have an exciting month planned!

Our services are usually held at 1 p.m. at the Elks Lodge off Airport Rd. in West Sedona on the first, second and third Sundays of the month, although there are several exceptions, so keep a close eye on the schedule!

Once a month we now meet at the Red Rock Café at 9:30 a.m. in the IGA Weber's Plaza (Village of Oak Creek) for good food and casual conversation.

All are welcome for any of our gatherings! If you need help getting to services or breakfast gatherings, please call Liz Danbury at 282-5061 and I will try to arrange for someone to pick you up and bring you safely home.

JANUARY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- January 4 -** Service with Wilfred H. Stone, Professor Emeritus Stanford University, speaking on "The Part and the Whole"
Music with Patty Swanson
Snacks and Flowers: Mike Catterton and Helen Black
- January 11 -** Service with Dan Spencer, Pastor of Granite Peak UU Congregation in Prescott, speaking on "The Virtue of Prudence"
Music with Patricia LaLiberte
Snacks and Flowers: Eleanor Cohen
- January 18 -** Service with Dan Spencer, Pastor of Granite Peak UU Congregation in Prescott, speaking on "Virtues for the Next Generations"
Music with Patricia LaLiberte
Snacks and Flowers; Sharon and Ralph Blankenship
- January 25 —** Breakfast Gathering – 9:30 a.m. at the **Red Rock Café** in the Weber's IGA Plaza in the Village of Oak Creek. (Please note the change in the Breakfast Location)
Come for good and reasonably priced food, good conversation and laughter in a casual atmosphere.

THE CALENDAR FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR APPEARS AT THE END OF THIS NEWSLETTER

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

MARY JANE

I was raised to believe that I must use my talents for helping others so I decided by age 11 that I would be a doctor. This was not encouraged for females at the time but with a lot of work and scholarships was finally accomplished.

I married just after receiving my acceptance to medical school and had my first son between junior and senior years. My husband was an attorney and worked for the State of Michigan in Lansing so we settled there and then moved to Mason when we bought a house there, big enough for both the growing family and a medical office.

After 17 years in General Practice I closed my office and did a 3-year Residency in Psychiatry, following which we moved to Olympia Washington with our 4 sons. Here I first worked at the Mental Health Center and then did consulting and some private practice. We joined the U-U Fellowship there. I finally felt at home in this group and have found that to be true here in Sedona also.

In 1983 I divorced and married Bob in 1985. It has been a delight to be able to share understanding and worldviews with him. I was an identical twin, used to being able to share and understand a peer. Sharing with someone close was a part of me that felt necessary but unfilled for many years.

I have believed for years that we are worshipping beings who, if we are thoughtful, can choose what we worship. I choose to worship a feeling of love and gratitude for what we have. I struggle just like anyone else, to keep those feelings paramount in my daily life.



MARY JANE and BOB ALLISON



BOB

I am a native of Western Washington and have been based there all my life. My parents were teachers and I grew up with the advantage a learning oriented home. Graduating from high school in 1941, I worked at Boeing for a little over two years and served the last two years of WW II as an auto mechanic in an Army Engineer construction battalion.

I graduated from WSC (Now Washington State University) in dairy husbandry and spent the following 17 plus years operating a small dairy farm near Centralia, Washington with my wife, Colleen. We raised a boy and three girls. Because of a herniated disk and back surgery, I sold the cows, went back to school for my teaching credentials and taught elementary school for the next seventeen years still living on the farm.

I lost my wife of 33 years to breast cancer and in 1984, met Mary Jane on a Mountaineer snowshoe hike and the rest is history. She introduced me to the Unitarian Fellowship in Olympia and I found a church home that seemed to fit as none other had. We married in 1985 and I can truly say as a friend once commented that "I was lucky twice."

I retired in 1985 and she a year later. We have enjoyed many outdoor adventures and travelled widely in the world. This is our eleventh winter in Sedona, and our eleventh with the Fellowship.

I have enjoyed a lifelong interest in natural history and have volunteered at Red Rock State Park sharing my interest with visitors there. I write a little poetry now and then and have taken a lot of pictures, both at home and abroad, that I share on occasion.

Life is good.

MEMBER & FRIENDS NEWS AND NOTES

Ed Jaskulski is recuperating well after his heart attack. *Glad to see you at Service, Ed!*

Jan Justice Oswald has had intestinal surgery. *We all wish Jan a speedy recovery.*

Jean Capalbo and Clay Moore are home in Sedona after a month-long trip back east in their RV with their two dogs. *Welcome Home; we missed you!*

Chris Bein will be participating in a teeny-tiny show at the Sedona Arts Center that will be showcasing student pottery on January 2 thru January 4th in the barn gallery. The show will be open on the "First Friday" at SAC. This is her first foray (after a very long time!) into ceramics and she has found the experience to be a very primal and satisfying journey.

NEW NEWS

NEW BREAKFAST LOCATION !!!

In January, the breakfast meetings will move to the Village of Oak Creek and continue there until the end of our season. They will still be held at 9:30 a.m.

The new location is the Red Rock Café off Rt. 179 at Verde Valley School Rd. next to Webers IGA. They have a lovely separate room for us and seem pleased to have us.

The food is very good and the service is excellent. This will afford our group a little more privacy and more opportunity for interaction and conversation than we have had in the past. We look forward to a strong attendance!

BOOK CART

John Danbury ordered a cart to donate, but it is too big for our space. Does anyone have something that might hold a couple dozen books and CD's? If not, John will continue looking for something suitable.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES

The Small Group Ministry Program being used by many U-U churches is an interesting way to facilitate better relationships and understanding between new and older members. The program is a structured discussion group which usually meets for 2 hours twice per month. A specific topic is given along with appropriate readings and questions. There is a ritual chalice lighting to start and end the session. The group should have between 8 to 10 people. People stay in the same group for a church year and then change.

This program has been very effective in large churches helping people become more acquainted and more comfortable. Whether our group is big enough to profit from this program is a question. If you would be interested in joining such a group call Mary Jane Allison at 284-2981

SUUF SCREENS

The screens you see next to the welcome table are your place to express yourself. Please bring in art, poetry, writings, photos or anything that is meaningful to you.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

• **WOMEN'S LUNCH BUNCH:** Mariana Warner hosted the Third Lunch Bunch in December at the Red Rock Cafe. *The January Lunch Bunch* will be hosted by Eleanor Cohen. Stay tuned for Details. Do come, UU ladies, for pleasant, intelligent conversation over a lunch.

If you would like to hostess a Lunch Bunch, please let Cornelia Hartley know by calling 282-3660 or emailing her at: Cornelia802@hotmail.com. You get to pick the date, time and restaurant that peaks your fancy!!

• **NOTES FROM THE BOARD:** The Board didn't meet in December due to several members not being available. Next Board Meeting will be Friday, January 16th at 2pm at Liz Danbury's home. *All are welcome to attend; please call Liz at 282-5061 to let us know if you plan to attend.*

CALLING ALL HELPERS!!!

The Board seeks volunteers to chair and assist with the Membership and Social Activity Committees. Keep in mind that two or three of you can get together to chair one of these committees. The goals of these committees are as follows, although creative license is always encouraged:

• **MEMBERSHIP:** Greets visitors after services (I can't be four places at once!). Follows up with visitors with a phone call and answers any questions they may have.

Plans ways to encourage growth of the Fellowship. Facilitates use of several copies of a videotape, "Voices", to educate potential members about what UUism is.

• **SOCIAL ACTIVITY:** Want the Fellowship to be more social? Plan an activity! Many of you expressed enthusiasm about social activities in which you would like to see the Fellowship participate. A chair(s) is needed to coordinate these ideas, or an individual could take charge of planning one activity. Fun suggestions include resuming the friendly feasts, movie nights, potlucks, a book group and group trips to cultural events. Whatever you would enjoy, others would be grateful for your planning! Contact President, Liz Danbury to help or chair one of these important committees at 282-5061 or email her at ldanbury@esedona.net.

The growth of our Fellowship depends on us! Besides, working on a committee provides friendship opportunities plus lots of fun and a sense of accomplishment that you have helped SUUF grow and prosper!

Next Newsletter Deadline: JANUARY 21st

Please make this newsletter a vibrant communications tool for all of us by submitting emails or hard copy of your articles, artwork, poetry or any suggestions or comments to Liz Danbury ldanbury@esedona.net.



EMILY DICKINSON

*Portion of an Article Excerpted From "Book World"
Literary Lives / Sunday, August 3, 2008
Submitted by Mariana Warner*

The article begins, "In April 1862, the famously private Emily Dickinson sent a startlingly forthright letter to the writer and reformer, Thomas Wentworth Higginson. The poet didn't know Higginson personally, but she knew his reputation as a champion of women writers and she'd read his "Letter to a Young Contributor" in that month's Atlantic Monthly."

Higginson's background is of worthy of note, as he was a strong humanitarian and, as you will read, a Unitarian Minister.

The article continues, "After Higginson led an attempt to free a captured slave held in Boston's Court House, Thoreau praised him as "the only Harvard Phi Beta Kappa, Unitarian Minister, and master of seven languages who has led a storming party against a federal bastion with a battering ram in his hands," a distinction I imagine Higginson holds to this day.

He ran guns to antislavery settlers in Kansas, helped John Brown plot his attack on Harper's Ferry and commanded the Civil War's first regiment of freed slaves. He threw himself with comparable vigor into the struggle for women's rights, making plans to write an Intellectual History of Women; and serving as president of the American Woman Suffrage Association.

The article goes on to state, "Dickinson saw in Higginson a contemplative soul reluctantly compelled to action; he saw her as a dynamo, brimming with intensity."

A PERSONAL LETTER FROM THE UUA TO OUR SEDONA FELLOWSHIP

Dear Friends at the Sedona Unitarian Universalist Fellowship:

We hope that you will share this letter of appreciation and gratitude widely in your congregation.

We are writing to thank you for your stewardship of Unitarian Universalism in Sedona, and for your full Fair Share contribution. We know that many congregations struggle with this contribution and we know it is the hard work of the leaders of societies which make this possible. Thank you.

We know that support within a congregation does not stop at the board level. It is the stewards sitting in the pews which make your budget possible, and that budget supports good works of Unitarian Universalism in the world. Together as an Association, we can do more than we can do alone. We can be represented in Washington, D.C. We can affect decisions made outside our own cities and towns by working together. We fund the creation and provision of high quality resources and services available to all member congregations. Your monetary support makes these things happen. Once again, thank you.

Our Annual Report on Giving will be published online at www.uua.org/giving, with a special report in the winter issue of the UUWorld Magazine. Yours will be listed as one of our Annual Program Fund (APF) Honor Congregations. This is another way for us to say thank you and affirm your congregation's generosity in support of our wider Association.

If either of us might assist you, we are pleased to respond to your request. We are honored to serve our association of congregations and honored to be associated with the good work we do in the world.

In appreciation and in faith together,

Laurel Amabile and Barbara W. Brown,

*Office of Stewardship and Development
Unitarian Universalist Association*

ARTIST'S CORNER

Note from Liz Danbury: Several of you asked for a copy of Dean Stevenson's homily. Unfortunately he doesn't have it written out. However, he did share with me his reading:

I Like It - by Brian McNaught

November 1978 from "A Disturbed Peace"

The young medical student finally blurted out the question which had been gnawing at him. Do you ever regret being gay?

No, I said with a growing smile. Sometimes I regret being so totally identified with my sexual orientation, but I never regret being gay. "Wouldn't you really rather be straight?" asked one Jewish talk-show host. "Would you rather be Christian?" I asked. "Think of all the hostility you face," commented one black woman. "Because of that, wouldn't you prefer being heterosexual?" "Who's telling who about hostility?" I queried. "How much would it take you before you wished you were white?"

As supportive as they might become, straight people have a lot of difficulty thinking of homosexuality as an intrinsic part of a person's psychological makeup. Even if they can be convinced that gay people didn't choose to be gay, they still need to hear us admit we would rather be like them.

I like being gay. I like knowing there is something very unique and even mysterious about me which separates me from most of the rest of the world. I like knowing that I share a special secret with a select group of men and women who lived before me and with those special few who will follow.

I like walking at life's edge as a pioneer; as an individual who must learn for himself the meaning of relationship, love of equals, sexuality and morality. Without the blessing of the Church and society, my life is one outrageous experiment after another. I like knowing that if I settle into a particular frame of thought, it is because I have found it appropriate and not because I was raised to believe that's the way things must be.

I like knowing that I can go anywhere in the world and meet someone who will smile that knowing smile which instantly says "Yes, I know; me too. Isn't it nice to not be alone? Hang in there." It is a twinkle and a smile which results not from being white or male or Catholic or American. It is a secret smile which only gay men and lesbians exchange.

I like exchanging that knowing smile with waiters in Galveston, airline stewards in Terra Haute, theater ushers in Detroit, salesmen in Boston, sunbathers in Sarasota. I like to give and receive those smiles at Mass, at lectures, in department stores, at the laundromat and on the street. I like the feeling I'm not alone. I like believing the studies which indicate gay folk are generally smarter, more creative and more sensitive than non-gay folk. It makes me feel chosen.

I like knowing that a gay man's dinner party will usually

be more elegant, that a gay-orchestrated religious service will usually be more artistic and that a gay disco will generally be more fun. I like knowing that there is far less class division to be found at most gay parties. Janitors and lawyers and truck drivers and librarians are bound to unknowingly bump elbows and even likely to sit next to Lily Tomlin, Paul Lynde, or half of the Ice Follies.

I get a kick out of knowing that anti-gay people are probably wearing clothes designed by a gay person, living in a home decorated by a gay person, attending a play performed by a gay person and participating in a Sunday service celebrated by a gay person.

I laugh when I think of anti-gay men cheering gays on the football field and learning about other scores from a gay sportscaster. I especially love the thought of anti-gay Catholics praying to gay saints.

I like being gay for all of these and many more reasons. Primarily, though, I like being gay because it is an essential aspect of who I am . . . and I like myself.

BUTTONS

Today I sewed eight buttons
on my old leather coat,
only once poking my thumb,
bleeding to J. S. Bach,
who always was your favorite.

When we first made love
to his Goldberg Variations,
you called it a music lesson.
You knew which buttons to push
to make me laugh.

My old buttons were too brassy,
so I drove alone to Goodwill
and bought a strange man's raincoat
for its green buttons, which brought
to mind your hazel eyes.

Today I sewed eight buttons on,
leaving me missing you,
trying to feel warm again,
or warm and pretty
in my latest revision.

Mariana Warner, ByLine, Oct., 2007

2009 SERVICE SCHEDULE

**NOTE: SERVICE SCHEDULE WILL BE UPDATED AS SPEAKERS FOR OPEN DATES ARE CONFIRMED.
PLEASE RETAIN FOR YOUR REFERENCE. THANK YOU!**

JANUARY

- 1/4 Wilfred H. Stone, Professor Emeritus
Stanford University / Music: Patty Swanson
"The Part and the Whole"
- 1/11 Dan Spencer / Music: Patricia La Liberte
- 1/18 Dan Spencer / Music: Patricia La Liberte
- 1/25 New!! BREAKFAST at RED ROCK CAFE

FEBRUARY

- 2/1 Beth Kingsley Hawkins
Music:Patty Swanson
*" Monet's Garden-Bringing the Beauty of
the Soul to Life"*
- 2/8 Dan Spencer / Music: Patricia La Liberte
- 2/15 Dan Spencer / Music: Patricia La Liberte
- 2/22 New!! BREAKFAST at RED ROCK CAFE

MARCH

- 3/1 Sandy Hawze / Music: Patty Swanson
"Spirituality in the Quaker Education System"
- 3/8 *"This I Believe"* with Mary Jane Allison
Music:Patty Swanson
- 3/15 Dan Spencer / Patricia La Liberte
- 3/22 New!! BREAKFAST at RED ROCK CAFE
- 3/29 Dan Spencer / Patricia La Liberte

APRIL

- 4/5 Denise Tracy, visiting UU Minister
"The Influence of Louisa May Alcott"
Music: Patty Swanson
- 4/12 Dan Spencer / Patricia La Liberte
- 4/19 Dan Spencer / Patricia La Liberte
- 4/26 New!! BREAKFAST at RED ROCK CAFE

MAY

- 5/3 Speaker TBD / Patty Swanson
- 5/10 Speaker TBD / Patty Swanson
- 5/17 Dan Spencer/ Patricia La Liberte
- 5/24 **ANNUAL MEETING**
END OF YEAR POTLUCK--
15th Year Anniversary Celebration!
- Music with Patricia LaLiberte and
Marion Maby
 - Hosted by Liz Danbury
and Judy Cooper

PLEASE NOTE:

All of our Services are held at 1pm at the Elks Club, 110 Airport Road in Sedona.
Breakfast Gatherings are held at 9:30am at the Red Rock Cafe, off of Rte. 179
and Verde Valley School Road, next to the IGA in the Village of Oak Creek.

We heartily welcome your participation in our services and gatherings!