



Sedona Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
P.O. Box 1670
Sedona, Arizona 86339
www.SedonaUU.org



WELCOME TO OUR DECEMBER NEWSLETTER HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!



DECEMBER • 2009

Masthead Photo by Mariana Warner

We have an exciting schedule planned for December!

Our services are held at 1 p.m. at the Sedona Elks Lodge, 110 Airport Rd. in West Sedona, usually on the first, second, third and fifth Sundays of the month. Some months deviate from this schedule, so be sure to check our website for current information regarding our activities.

Once a month, usually on the fourth Sunday of the month, we 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 heartily welcome for any of our activities. If you need help getting to services or breakfast gatherings, please call Liz Danbury at 282-5061 and she will try to arrange for someone to pick you up and bring you safely home.

DECEMBER SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

December 6—Service with Dan Spencer, Pastor of Granite Peak UU Congregation in Prescott
Continuing his series on "Science and Religion"
Music with Patricia LaLiberte
Coffee Hour Hosts: Barbara Warren and Ron Krumm

December 13— Service with Dan Spencer, Pastor of Granite Peak UU Congregation in Prescott
Continuing his series on "Science and Religion"
Music with Patricia LaLiberte
Coffee Hour Hosts: Judy and Carl Cooper

December 20— HOLIDAY GATHERING!!

Bring a few cookies or chocolates or something delightful! Please bring stories, poems and readings to share. We will have an informal gathering with refreshments, your favorite music and sharing.
Music with Patty Swanson

December 27-- Breakfast Gathering – 9:30 a.m. location TBD. Sign up with Diane Locke if you are interested in participating and she will coordinate a location.

FOR YOUR REFERENCE, THE CALENDAR FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR APPEARS ON THE LAST PAGE

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

ELEANOR HAMILTON

Eleanor Hamilton and her husband, Walter moved to Sedona from Pasadena, CA ten years ago, after visiting this beautiful city over the years, falling in love with it and deciding it was the perfect place in which to retire.

Eleanor grew up in Los Angeles in a devoutly Catholic household with both parents who had themselves been raised as devout Catholics in the West Indies. Like so many other families, they took their particular religious faith for granted, and simply believed what they believed. Growing up, they regularly attended services and took communion, confessed their "sins" to the parish priest, and refrained from eating meat on Friday. However, even as a young child, Eleanor can remember questioning many of the tenets of her Catholic faith. Many disturbing and unfair "facts" about Catholicism perplexed her. She never understood how so many people could be so sure of what they were so sure of. Their sense of unshakable certainty never melded well with her own intrinsic sense of reason.

As the years passed, Eleanor began to fall away from many of the rituals of the church. Her husband was a nonbeliever, and, as their lives progressed, they engaged in predominantly secular activities. They focused on their careers, raised a family and in general simply enjoyed their lives with their children, family and friends.

Walter, a Kansas City native, and Eleanor, met in graduate school in St. Louis, Mo., and, after receiving their master's degrees, both returned to Eleanor's hometown of Los Angeles, where they married and had three children -- Stuart, Kurt and Sonya. They later both obtained their PhD degrees in Southern California, and worked as therapists and psychologists until retirement.

After retiring to Sedona, they both indulged their love of the arts by volunteering with the Sedona Arts Center, and Sedona Jazz on the Rocks. Eleanor has been on the board of both of these organizations, and continues as a board member of Sedona Jazz on the Rocks. Her other interests are hiking, yoga, traveling, movies, reading, and enjoying the beauty of the area.

After Walter passed away in August 2009, Eleanor found herself needing to return to her spiritual roots. She very much wants to continue her spiritual journey: a journey that leads to the joy of faith through the light of reason. Her daughter, Sonya, who recently began attending the Unitarian Universalist Church in Pasadena, suggested that participation in the Sedona UU Fellowship could be an avenue towards this spiritual journey. Eleanor now looks forward to continuing, with an open mind, this ongoing search for purpose, and spiritual depth, and hopes to continue to develop her own personal faith as a new member of SUUF.

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS NEWS AND NOTES

BOB WEBER

will be having surgery for prostate cancer on December 14 in Flagstaff.

COOKIE CARPENTER

will be having a knee replacement on December 6 in Cottonwood.

ANONYMOUS GIFT:

The Fellowship is very grateful for a generous anonymous gift of \$500!

Many thanks to the donor.



DIANE LOCKE

has new contact information:
205 Sunset Dr., #93
Sedona, AZ 86336
(928) 203-5835

SHIRLEY and DAVID LOCKE

have new contact information:
205 Sunset Dr., #89
Sedona, AZ 86336
(928) 282-7420

SUUF SCREENS

Thank you to those who have been contributing to the white screens. The screens you see next to the snack table are your place to express yourself. Please bring in art, poetry, writings, photos or anything that is meaningful to you. Remember to take a photo with your yellow traveling UU hat for the screen! If you don't have a hat, please see Liz Danbury.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DINNER AND DESSERT GROUPS:

Dinner and dessert groups are in full swing! Groups will remain the same through December so they can be together more than one time. A new sign-up will be done in late December for the winter months. Call or email

Barbara Warren: 928-646-7364 or
bwhighdesert@gmail.com

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

The committee met at Liz Danbury's home at 5:00 PM on 11/5/09, to discuss ways the Fellowship might increase its focus on outreach activities, especially volunteering in the community. Present were Ralph Blankenship, Sharon Blankenship, John Danbury, Liz Danbury and Marge Fallon.

The fellowship will send a group to assist in St Andrews' Monday Night Suppers Program. Marge Fallon will contact Sandi Hensley, 282-4457, to get clarification on details such as how many persons can be used, when we should arrive, how ongoing communications should flow, and when we should begin. At this time, the primary volunteers are the Outreach Committee itself, but efforts will be made to add others, including Jim Garrett.

Mitzvah Day is scheduled for Sunday, November 15, 2009, 12:30 to 4:30. We agreed that an effort should be made to alert the Fellowship to the event and encourage participation. Liz will make an appeal at the upcoming Sunday service. Discussion followed about the possibility of joining the sponsors (VV Caregivers, Jewish Community, and KSB) in a more formalized way, next year.

The Fellowship's sponsorship of VV Caregivers' programs was discussed; we presently give them an annual gift of \$250, and several members are active volunteers. We also give \$250 annually to the Elks Club to support their community programs. If necessary the current \$500 Outreach budget could also draw from the Growth and Development budget (\$870) for appropriate activities.

Discussion followed about the possibility of developing a clearinghouse for our members who either are seek-

ing volunteers or seeking opportunities to volunteer. This is seen as a possible strategy by which the Fellowship can involve itself (institutionally) in the already existing volunteer activities that members support as individuals. We must be careful to position our program so that it does not compete with long-standing commitments.

The committee agreed that it would be useful to have a profile of members' current volunteer activities and areas of interest; also members' suggestions of Fellowship outreach strategies and activities would be valuable in our planning. Ralph Blankenship will draft some ideas that could lead to a survey instrument, and circulate the notes to the committee for review and comment. It was also agreed that it might be useful in various ways to have an annual survey, possibly linked to the annual meeting, for informational purposes and planning.

John Danbury will investigate volunteering at the Humane Society, and consider whether a group of Fellowship members could be formed around that activity.

Ralph Blankenship proposed that the committee consider having an Outreach Sunday, possibly on Mothers' Day, since that date appears to be unfilled on the Sunday services schedule. A speaker or group of panelists could be found to address the topic of Organizing the Community. Harvey and Julie Grady were mentioned as prospects along with others including the leaders of organizations we currently support with cash and warm bodies. Ralph agreed to determine whether the Sunday is still available, and whether the Program Committee would like for us to take it on.

It was noted that the position of Treasurer of the Fellowship is about to be open and that one or more BOD members may have to be replaced in the near future.

The meeting ended at about 7:00. Contact Liz Danbury at 282-5061 or ldanbury@esedona.net if you are interested in participating in Outreach Committee activities.

Respectfully submitted, Ralph Blankenship

As Unitarian Universalists, we believe in the ethical application of religion. Good works are the natural product of a good faith, the evidence of an inner grace that finds completion in social and community involvement. Doing work in the community not only gives a sense of satisfaction that we are making a difference in our community, but also helps to get our name out there!

PLEASE JOIN US!

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE THREE)

WOMEN'S LUNCH BUNCHES: Monthly women's lunch bunches are a lovely way for women in the Fellowship to connect for stimulating conversation and good food. If you would like to hostess a Lunch Bunch, please let Liz Danbury know at ldanbury@esedona.net. You get to pick the date, time and restaurant that peaks your fancy!!

CALLING ALL HELPERS!!

The Board seeks volunteers among our Members and Friends to chair and assist with the Community Outreach, Membership and Social Activities 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. Follows up with visitors with a phone call and post card 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 have expressed enthusiasm about 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 covenant groups, movie nights, potlucks, a book group and group trips to cultural events. Whatever you would enjoy, others would be grateful for your planning!

TREASURER NEEDED: Effective immediately, the Board is seeking a new Treasurer due to Clay Moore and Jean Capalbo moving out to the area. If you are interested, please contact Liz Danbury. Clay Moore will provide training.

Please contact Liz Danbury at 282-5061 or ldanbury@esedona.net to assist with any of these committees or to offer ideas or suggestions.

The growth of our Fellowship depends on us! Besides, working on a committee provides an opportunity to get to know your fellow UUs in a more casual setting –plus it's lots of fun! There's also a genuine sense of accomplishment that you have helped SUUF grow and prosper!

NOTES FROM THE BOARD

SUUF BOARD MEETING MINUTES, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2009

Liz Danbury, President, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Other Board members present were Eleanor Cohen, Vice President; Clay Moore, Treasurer; Diane Nadeau, member at large; and Mariana Warner, Secretary.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the October meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Clay Moore accounted for our SUUF budget, which is not quite on track, though he expects that we will finish the year on target. His October financial report was approved by the Board.

Clay announced that his resignation is pending, and that his two-year term will be up soon anyway. He reported that he and Jean Capalbo are moving to Columbia, SC, no later than June. He recommends that our bylaws be changed so that our next treasurer may continue to serve beyond the current two-year limit. He said he would be glad to work with our new treasurer as soon as the Nominating Committee recruits and the Board approves of another qualified person. Clay recommends changing banks, in order to earn interest on hour funds, as Chase pays no interest on our account.

President's Report:

The Outreach Committee, consisting of: Sharon and Ralph Blankenship, Marge Fallon, and Liz and John Danbury, will not be able to continue to serve meals to the homeless on Monday nights, as regulations and training are too rigorous for them to be responsible for the whole meal, rather than helping to serve it. They needed more help, as it was. Liz said that John

Danbury will look into Newman's Hole-in-the-Wall Camp, for children with cancer, as an alternative worthy cause we might support.

Mariana Warner agreed to contact Dan Spencer about the possibility of having a worship service in which we bless animals, including past and present pets of members and friends.

New Business:

The annual SUUF potluck probably will be at the Elks Club on Saturday, May 22. There was discussion as to whether or not to have it catered. The Board agreed to keep the cost as low as possible and to suggest that members and friends donate \$5 each.

Diane Nadeau reported that the Barbershop group she sings with will be pleased to sing at our January 3 worship service with Dan, and that they don't expect to be paid.

The Board agreed that henceforth, fellowship-wide announcements (except for brief joys and sorrows, and the introduction of first-time visitors) will be in the newsletter and on the bulletin board, not during time set aside for our worship service.

The Board will not meet in December. The next meeting will be at the Red Rock Cafe at 9 a.m. Sunday, January 24, before our SUUF breakfast meeting. Liz adjourned the meeting at 9:55 a.m. Respectfully submitted, Mariana Warner, Secretary

The next Board Meeting will be January 24 at the Red Rock Café at 9:00 a.m. immediately preceding the breakfast meeting. All are welcome. Please contact Liz Danbury at 282-5061 if you would like to attend.

THE AFFIRMATION OF HUMANISM: A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES
COUNCIL FOR SECULAR HUMANISM

- We are committed to the application of reason and science to the understanding of the universe and to the solving of human problems.
- We deplore efforts to denigrate human intelligence, to seek to explain the world in supernatural terms, and to look outside nature for salvation.
- We believe that scientific discovery and technology can contribute to the betterment of human life.
- We believe in an open and pluralistic society and that democracy is the best guarantee of protecting human rights from authoritarian elites and repressive majorities.
- We are committed to the principle of separation of church and state.
- We cultivate the arts of negotiation and compromise as a means of resolving differences and achieving mutual understanding.
- We are concerned with securing justice and fairness in society and with eliminating discrimination and intolerance.
- We believe in supporting the disadvantaged and the handicapped so that they will be able to help themselves.
- We attempt to transcend divisive parochial loyalties based on race, religion, gender, nationality, creed, class, sexual orientation, or ethnicity, and strive to work together for the common good of humanity.
- We want to protect and enhance the earth, to preserve it for future generations, and to avoid inflicting needless suffering on other species.
- We believe in enjoying life here and now and in developing our creative talents to their fullest.
- We believe in the cultivation of moral excellence.
- We respect the right to privacy. Mature adults should be allowed to fulfill their aspirations, to express their sexual preferences, to exercise reproductive freedom, to have access to comprehensive and informed health-care, and to die with dignity.
- We believe in the common moral decencies: altruism, integrity, honesty, truthfulness, responsibility. Humanist ethics is amenable to critical, rational guidance. There are normative standards that we discover together. Moral principles are tested by their consequences.
- We are deeply concerned with the moral education of our children. We want to nourish reason and compassion.
- We are engaged by the arts no less than by the sciences.
- We are citizens of the universe and are excited by discoveries still to be made in the cosmos.
- We are skeptical of untested claims to knowledge, and we are open to novel ideas and seek new departures in our thinking.
- We affirm humanism as a realistic alternative to theologies of despair and ideologies of violence and as a source of rich personal significance and genuine satisfaction in the service to others.
- We believe in optimism rather than pessimism, hope rather than despair, learning in the place of dogma, truth instead of ignorance, joy rather than guilt or sin, tolerance in the place of fear, love instead of hatred, compassion over selfishness, beauty instead of ugliness, and reason rather than blind faith or irrationality.
- We believe in the fullest realization of the best and noblest that we are capable of as human beings.

**Note: Not all Unitarians and Universalists are secular humanists.
These views represent the views of some of our members.*

All of our services are held at 1 p.m. at the Elks Club, 110 Airport Road in West Sedona. Breakfast Gatherings are held at 9:30 a.m. at the Red Rock Café, off of Rte. 179 and Verde Valley School Road, next to the IGA in the Village of Oak Creek.

We heartily welcome your presence at our services and gatherings!

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

2010

JANUARY - 2010

- 1/3 Dan Spencer / Music: Barbershop Quartet
- 1/10 Mariana Hartsong, **"Sacred Sufi Celebrations"**
Music: Patty Swanson
- 1/17 Dan Spencer/ Music: Patricia LaLiberte
- 1/24 BREAKFAST at RED ROCK CAFÉ
- 1/31 Dan Spencer/ Music: Patricia LaLiberte

FEBRUARY

- 2/7 Beth Kingsley Hawkins: **"Valuing the Quest: A UU Core Value"** / Music: Patty Swanson
- 2/14 Dan Spencer/ Music: Patricia LaLiberte
- 2/21 Dan Spencer/ Music: Patricia LaLiberte
- 2/28 BREAKFAST at RED ROCK CAFÉ

MARCH

- 3/7 Craig Hartley: **"The Magic of Thoreau"**
Music: Patty Swanson
- 3/14 Dan Spencer/ Music: Patricia LaLiberte
- 3/21 Dan Spencer/ Music: Patricia LaLiberte
- 3/28 BREAKFAST at RED ROCK CAFÉ

APRIL

- 4/4 Dr. Kathy Eastwood **"Astronomy"**
Music: Patty Swanson
- 4/11 Dan Spencer/ Music: Patricia LaLiberte
- 4/18 Dan Spencer/ Music: Patricia LaLiberte
- 4/25 BREAKFAST at RED ROCK CAFÉ

MAY

- 5/2 Dan Spencer/ Music: Patricia LaLiberte
- 5/9 TBD / Music: Patty Swanson
- 5/16 Dan Spencer/ Music: Patricia LaLiberte
- 5/22 **ANNUAL MEETING AND END OF YEAR PARTY at the ELKS'S CLUB AT 1pm -- Note this is a Saturday.**
- 5/30 BEGIN WEEKLY BREAKFAST GATHERINGS FOR THE SUMMER AT RED ROCK CAFÉ



NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: DECEMBER 19

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

EDITOR'S NOTE: Submissions of prose, poetry, photographs and original art are enthusiastically encouraged and welcome for publication in our SUUF Newsletter.

Please send to Liz Danbury: ldanbury@esedona.net