



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



NOVEMBER • 2009

WELCOME TO OUR NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!



We have five Sundays this month and an exciting schedule!

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.

NOVEMBER SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

November 1– 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: Chris and George Bein

November 8– 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 Hostess: Marilee Richards

November 15– Service with Ron Krumm and Barbara Warren
An interactive Service entitled **"How Do I Know?"**
Music with Patty Swanson
Coffee Hour Hostesses: Kitty Hayes and Joanna Ashby



November 22-- Breakfast Gathering – 9:30 a.m. at the Red Rock Café in the Weber's IGA Plaza in the Village of Oak Creek. Come for good and reasonably priced food, good conversation and giggles in a casual atmosphere.
MEETING OF THE SUUF BOARD: 9 a.m. Red Rock Café.

November 29-- Service with Marge Fallon
Speaking on **"Myths and Storytelling"**
Music with Patty Swanson
Coffee Hour Hosts: Sharon and Ralph Blankenship

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

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Not total newcomers, Dreama and Fletcher Aldredge vacationed in the area for several years before moving here permanently this summer. They relocated from the Kansas City area where they were active members in the Shawnee Mission Unitarian Universalist Church. Having been high school sweethearts and even attending prom together, they have lived most of their lives in the Midwest, with a few years in the Boston area. While in Boston they became familiar with the UU Church. Both were raised in very traditional religious settings. Fletcher was brought up in the Church of Christ where even using musical instruments during a service was prohibited. Dreama's family are members of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, the Independence, Missouri version of the Utah Mormons.

Thank goodness they moved to Boston! They attended First Parish Church in Duxbury, MA and after a short time knew this religion resonated with them both. They moved back to the Kansas City area a few years later and began attending Shawnee Mission Unitarian Universalist Church.

Dreama was pregnant and they were determined to raise their children without religious dogma. You know what they call an atheist with children? A Unitarian Universalist!

Their former congregation, SMUUCH (an acronym that will make you smile) has about 350 members and a dynamic, young minister, Thom Belote, a graduate of Harvard Divinity. Dreama coordinated SMUUCH's Dinner for 8 gatherings, which included about 80 monthly participants. Fletcher and Dreama are look-



Dreama and Fletcher Aldredge

ing forward to hosting Thom and many other SMUUCH friends already planning Sedona visits!

Dreama and Fletcher have two children. Emily, 22, lives in Boulder, CO with her wonderful dog, Henry (named after Henry David Thoreau, of course!). Their son, Graham, moved to Arizona with them and is attending Yavapai College. He is an avid cyclist and thinks it's great to have actual mountains to train on after the plains of Kansas! After a lifelong interest in all things science, Fletcher finally bought a telescope and joined the Verde Valley Astronomers. Any clear night will find him expanding his celestial object repertoire.

Having always enjoyed volunteering, Dreama recently finished training and is now an official volunteer at the Sedona Chamber Visitor's Center. So far, the most unusual question she's been asked is, "Where do you go for the views?" (as the tourist gazed out toward Snoopy Rock!).

Fletcher's favorite things about the area: 1) Water from the ground; 2) Peace and Quiet; 3) Dark Sky and oh yes, The View.

Dreama's favorite things about the area: 1) The Weather; 2) The Weather; 3) No Mowing and oh yes, The View!

Finding the sacred in the natural world has always been a characteristic of religious liberalism. What a perfect place to explore this tenet! And, a connection with a community of others dwelling in peace and seeking knowledge in freedom is why Dreama and Fletcher are happy to be the newest part of SUUF.

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS NEWS AND NOTES

WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

A big welcome to our newest member:

Eleanor Hamilton of Sedona.

Her contact information is:

40 Buckskin Lane

Sedona, AZ 86336

203-9332

wehamil@aol.com



Phyllis Asmussen

We are saddened to report that Phyllis has suffered a massive stroke. She is at the Verde Valley Medical Center in Cottonwood.

Her son, Dennis is by her side and she was visited by her other two sons and a neice.

PRESSTIME NOTICE: we have heard from Phyllis' son, Dennis, that this morning, October 29, at 7:30am Phyllis has died. Arrangements to be announced.

NEW NEWS

HYMN AWARD

In honor of Margaret Fuller, the UUA Margaret Fuller Bicentennial Committee is planning a celebration for the 2010 General Assembly and sponsoring a hymn competition. The earliest deadline to submit entries will be in January 10, 2010 and the winner will receive a \$500 cash prize.



"We have two openings in one of the four workshops I lead. Beginners as well as experienced writers gather to share their words for content evaluation and marketing suggestions," Willma says. The groups gather in her Village of Oak Creek apartment.

"I have been leading and/or participating in writer workshops for 40 years," she reports. Her work has been published in more than 80 national and regional journals. Her most recent adult book, *Long Distance Grandparenting*, was released in 2008. Nineteen children's books bear her byline. She has spoken to writer groups and UU Fellowships in 25 California, Arizona & Nevada communities. Contact her at 284-2703 or willmagore@msn.com

WRITER WORKSHOP OPENINGS

Any members of the UU Fellowship who are interested in writing memoirs, novels, articles, essays or poetry for possible publication, are invited to phone or e-mail fellow member Willma Gore.

SUUF INFO

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:

Ralph Blankenship and Liz Danbury seek members for the Community Outreach Committee. We will be assisting St. Andrews Episcopal Church with community suppers (free to those in need) on Monday nights. It will not be necessary to work every Monday. The Committee can decide how much time they can donate. We already have several members interested, so please join us!

Please contact Liz Danbury at 282-5061 or ldanbury@esedona.net if you are interested.



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!*

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

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

September 20, 2009

Liz Danbury, President, called the meeting to order at ~10:30 a.m., after the monthly breakfast meeting at the Red Rock Café, in the Village of Oak Creek. Others present for the board meeting were *Eleanor Cohen, Vice President; Clay Moore, Treasurer; Members-at-Large Ed Jaskulski, Diane Nadeau, and Barbara Warren; SUUF members Jean Capalbo, Bob and Rosalie Weber; and Mariana Warner, Secretary.*

The August minutes (prepared by Liz Danbury) were accepted.

Clay Moore's Treasurer's report, indicating that we're on track and in the black, even with a slight increase in our annual premium for equipment and liability insurance, was accepted.

President's Report:

Liz Danbury announced two new welcome members to the Fellowship: *Dreama and Fletcher Aldredge of Cornville.*

The Board reviewed singer Jennifer Friedman's proposal to give us a musical program on the subject of peace. After some discussion, it was decided that two volunteers on the Board, **Diane Nadeau** and **Eleanor Cohen**, would attend a program that Ms. Friedman will present on November 8 in Prescott, so that we will have a first-hand report to go by, rather than basing our decision solely on unsolicited PR from the musician. **Ed Jaskulski** expressed his preference for using local people for program presentations based on human behavior.

New Business:

Barbara Warren and **Ron Krum** will host a Simple Supper at their home on Sunday, October 4, at about 4:30

p.m., after Marian Maby's and Patricia LaLiberete's concert in Cottonwood. Liz and John Danbury will host our holiday gathering again this year on December 20, at the Sedona Elks Lodge. There will be no meeting on Sunday, December 27. We are also still in search of a different venue for our annual gathering on ~ May 23, so as not to impose on the Beins' hospitality.

We have three openings for guest speakers, the first being January 3. Ed Jaskulski would like to have someone speak to us about end-of-life issues, and compassionate choices. Liz will pursue that suggestion with Amelia Jaskulski and speak with Helen Black the possibility of a suitable speaker on that subject. Barbara Warren suggested the possibility of having Kathy Eastwood, an NAU astronomer, speak to us. Another possibility suggested was Sharab Kandral, a Buddhist artist whose work is displayed at Goldenstein Gallery. The group had varying feelings and opinions about the relevance of such a program of visual art for our UU fellowship.

The next SUUF Board meeting will be Sunday, Oct. 25, after our monthly SUUF 9:30 a.m. breakfast at the Red Rock Café.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mariana Warner, Secretary

The next Board Meeting will be November 22 at the Red Rock Café at 9 a.m. immediately following the breakfast meeting. All are welcome. Please contact Liz Danbury at 282-5061 if you would like to attend.



MARGARET ANDERSON SPEAKS ON THE LIFE OF HARVEY LAVAN VAN CLIBURN

On October 4, 2009, Margaret Anderson, artist, spoke to the Fellowship about the life and accomplishments of Van Cliburn. When Van Cliburn was three years old, he began taking piano lessons from his mother, Rildia Bee O'Bryan Cliburn. O'Bryan was taught by Arthur Friedheim, a pupil of Franz Liszt. At age three, Van Cliburn played a piece by ear that he heard another of his mother's students playing. He played the "Bridal Chorus" by Wagner by ear at the same age.

At the age of six, the family moved to Kilgore, TX. He spent a lot of time practicing. His mother instilled a strong sense of discipline. His father was very supportive. He was blessed with big hands, having a twelve-note span. By the time he was twelve, he had performed with a major symphony orchestra on television.

He entered The Julliard School at age seventeen, and studied under Rosina Lhevinne, who trained him in the tradition of the great Russian romantics.

It was his recognition in Moscow that propelled Van Cliburn to international fame. The first International Tchaikovsky Competition in 1958 was an event to demonstrate Soviet cultural superiority during the Cold War. Van Cliburn's performance at the competition finale of Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 and Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3 earned him a standing ovation. One pianist said his playing was "more Russian than the Russians"! When it was time to announce a winner, the judges felt obligated to ask permission of Nikita Khrushchev, the Soviet leader, whether or not it was appropriate to give first prize to an American. Khrushchev said if he was the best he should be given the prize.

Anderson played for us a recording of Van Cliburn playing a movement of Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1. Van Cliburn was 23 years old and had returned from Moscow. This recording went triple platinum.

Van Cliburn recorded and performed for another twenty years. He opened all his rehearsals to students, and at twenty-seven opened a school.

In 1978 he became burned out and took a nine-year sabbatical. In 1987 he was invited to perform at the White House for President Ronald Reagan and Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev.

An annual International Van Cliburn Competition still takes place.

IN MEMORIAM

Rev. Dr. Forrest Church, Theologian and Author

Rev. Forrest Church, acclaimed author of more than two dozen books and longtime minister of the Unitarian Church of All Souls in New York City, died on September 24, 2009. The son of former U.S. Senator Frank Church (D-Idaho) and grandson of former Idaho Governor Chase A. Clark, Forrest Church earned his Ph.D. in early church history from Harvard University in 1978, and began his career at All Souls that same year.

As All Souls grew, so too did Church's prominence as a public voice for Unitarian Universalism and for social justice. He was a strong proponent of both religious and political liberalism. In 1985, he led All Souls Church in learning about AIDS and providing direct services to AIDS sufferers.

Church reached a wide audience through the approximately two dozen books that he authored or edited in the course of his career. He published his first book, *Father and Son: A Personal Biography of Senator Frank Church of Idaho*, in 1985. His other prominent works include *Our Chosen Faith: An Introduction to Unitarian Universalism* (1989, co-authored with John Buehrens), *The American Creed* (2002), *So Help Me God: The Founding Fathers and the First Great Battle over Church and State* (2007), and *Love and Death* (2008). Church's final book, *The Cathedral of the World: A Universalist Theology*, will be published by Beacon Press in November.

At the UUA's 2008 General Assembly, Church received the Award for Distinguished Service to the Cause of Unitarian Universalism, the most prestigious award given by the UUA. "Let us never forget what a privilege it is to be part of this great movement and to pronounce its saving faith: one Light (Unitarianism) shining through many windows (Universalism)," Church remarked upon receiving the award. "Let us continue our quest together, with awe and humility, with saving openness and saving doubt, never forgetting to honor those who charted our way."


SERVICE SCHEDULE Unitarian Universalist **2009-2010**

**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!

2009

DECEMBER

- 12/6 Dan Spencer/ Music: Patricia LaLiberte
- 12/13 Dan Spencer/ Music: Patricia LaLiberte
- 12/20 **Holiday Gathering**
Music: Patty Swanson
- 12/27 **NO SERVICE. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!**

2010

JANUARY - 2010

- 1/3 Dan Spencer / Music Patty Swanson
- 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
- 5/23 **ANNUAL MEETING AND END OF YEAR
PARTY**
- 5/30 BEGIN WEEKLY BREAKFAST GATHER-
INGS FOR THE SUMMER AT RED ROCK
CAFÉ

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 28

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